

## Inflation rate rises to 18.4% and trade gap widens

Britain's annual inflation rate reached 18.4 per cent in January, the highest for nearly two years. It is expected to go above 20 per cent in the early summer, representing a severe setback to the Govern-

ment's optimism of last year. More gloom was added to the economic picture yesterday with figures showing that the trade gap widened to £346m last month. The pound was hit by the news

## Double blow to Government

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government suffered a double blow yesterday with the publication of disappointing figures for both trade and inflation. Britain's visible trade gap widened to £346m in January while the annual rate of inflation jumped from 17.2 per cent to 18.4 per cent—the highest since April 1976.

January's trade deficit came on top of a sharply revised figure for December showing the gap between imports and exports in December at £325m rather than the originally published £72m. But figures for the whole of 1979 are not greatly altered because the December revision largely from changes in the adjustment made to the figures to take account of seasonal factors.

The pound was hit by news of the retail price figures and fell back again on the bad news about trade. Sterling dropped below \$2.30, closing at \$2.2955 for a loss of 11 cents on the day. On a tradeweighted basis the pound lost 0.3 points to close at 73 per cent of its end 1977 value.

There was a glimmer of light buried in yesterday's inflation figures. The underlying rate of inflation, measured by a six-month comparison of prices excluding seasonal foods, dropped back in January. This was because the Budget rise in value-added tax was no longer affecting this measure. It showed prices rising at an annual rate of 14.1 per cent compared to more than 20 per cent in December.

Last month's 21 per cent jump in prices was partly because of a special bunching of rises in January when many companies decided to increase prices.

However, the prospects for inflation in the coming months remain grim. The year-on-year rise in prices will almost certainly go above 20 per cent in the early summer. This is well above the Government's hopes of last year and would represent a doubling in this measure of inflation since the Government took office last May.

Deeper mortgages accounted for one third of the rise in prices last month. They came as a result of the Government's decision to raise interest rates last year to keep money supply under control. Some of the effect of the higher mortgage rate has still to feed into the Retail Price Index and will show up in the February figures.

Other price rises in the pipeline include 20 per cent rise in postal charges, increased telephone rental, dearer coal and petrol, increased prescription charges and dearer school meals. Large rate increases in the gas are also expected as local authorities endeavour to stay within their tight cash limits.

The Government may well add further to inflationary pressures in the Budget in March, if it decides to raise duties on alcohol, tobacco and petrol.

There was also little cheer from the tax and price index published yesterday. This index, showing the increase in gross pay necessary to offset price rises taking changes in taxation into account, rose by 16.1 per cent in the year to January compared to a rise of 14.9 in December.

The disappointing trade figures were also a surprise. Part of the worsening was due to a jump in imports

of silver bullion, obviously a result of January's "gold fever". A rise in both the price and volume of silver imports accounted for about a half of a £200m rise in total imports.

Britain's trade performance now seems to have worsened dramatically towards the end of last year. Although this is partly due to the engineering strike, there has been only a slight recovery since then.

Exports of manufactured goods, recovering after the engineering strike, went up by about £200m between the three months August to October and the latest three months. However, this was exactly offset by an unexplained rise in imports of finished manufactured goods.

Export volumes in January were rather lower than in recent months, once erratic items such as trade in diamonds and ships are excluded. Over a longer term export volumes have been boosted by trade in oil and by the rebound in exports after the engineering strike ended.

When both oil and erratic items are excluded from the figures, British exports rose by 1 per cent in volume terms in the three months to January. Imports, on the same basis, dropped by 1 per cent.

Britain is not yet a net exporter of oil, although officials expect it to move into surplus this year. In the three months to January the balance of trade in oil showed a deficit of £137m, a considerable improvement on the previous three months.

Next month's trade figures will be made worse by the effects of the steel strike.

Leading article, page 13

## Steel talks unlikely to shorten strike

By Donald MacIntyre  
Labour Reporter

Senior British Steel Corporation executives are to hold fresh talks tomorrow with leaders of the two unions at the centre of the strike in the industry, now in its seventh week.

With the corporation still publicly standing by its 14.4 per cent "final" pay offer coupled with productivity conditions, there seemed little prospect last night of the dispute being settled before at least the end of the month.

Last night's announcement of talks came after a day of messages between the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the corporation sent with the aim of trying to resolve an apparent difference on what should be the terms of reference for the talks.

British Steel maintained last night that the purpose of the meeting would be "to enable them to explain the details of the agreement" reached in February with craft and general union negotiators, but decisively rejected this week by rank and file delegates from the craft unions and the Transport and General Workers.

BSC said it had already accepted the draft agreement as its "final position" and believed it was essential that all the unions fully understand all its aspects.

In contrast to the offer of 10 per cent subject to national productivity conditions and a further 4.4 per cent subject to local deals, the confederation and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen have made it clear that they are seeking something like 13 per cent across the board before there is a resumption of full negotiations to end the strike.

In spite of the difference between the two sides, senior confederation officials clearly hoped last night that beside the explanation of the final offer, tomorrow's meeting might still additionally provide the opportunity at least of informal "talks about talks" which could pave the way to a resumption of full negotiations.

The TUC said last night that a team led by Mr Len Murray, general secretary, and including Mr William Sims, the confederation's general secretary, would travel to Brussels for talks with the EC Commission aimed at securing a commitment to further help from the EEC to prevent, and cushion the effect of, redundancies in the industry.

Pit strike certain: South Wales miners are virtually certain to strike in nine days in protest against the British Steel Corporation's plans to run down production of pig iron. Mr Jones writes from Cardiff.

Yesterday striking steelworkers in Poland met the miners' leaders and said that they were willing to continue their fight, even if the pay issue was settled. Llanwrn steel workers will be asked to take the same decision tomorrow. If they do, the miners will recommence strike action to delegates' conference called for Wednesday.

The miners' leaders already have a mandate to take strike action if they consider it necessary and the steelworkers' support will pave the way for them to call out their 28,000 members.

A member of the Port Talbot strike committee said last night: "As far as we are concerned, the pay issue is secondary to the fight for jobs."

Mr Don Hayward, the South Wales National Union of Mineworkers' administrative officer, said: "Now we know that the steelworkers are prepared to continue the fight for jobs, not just pay, we will back them on the way. The battle is on and we are being pressed hard by our lodges to take strike action."

Under the British Steel plans more than 11,000 steelworkers will lose their jobs at Port Talbot and Llanwrn. Miners fear that that eventually could threaten up to 19 pits and 14,000 jobs as the corporation cuts its coking coal orders.



Police helping Mrs Thatcher through an enthusiastic crowd estimated to be 5,000 who greeted her when she visited Salisbury, Wiltshire.

## Polish Premier forced to resign after attacks at party congress

Warsaw, Feb 15.—Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Prime Minister, has resigned, Mr Edward Giersek, the party leader, announced today at the closing session of the eighth Polish Communist Party congress. The announcement was made after the congress had failed to elect Mr Jaroszewicz to his post in the ruling Politburo.

The Government's performance had been criticized during the congress. Mr Jaroszewicz submitted a letter to the Central Committee asking that his name be withdrawn from the list of candidates and he also relinquished his post as Prime Minister. He added that Mr Jaroszewicz, who is 70, had expressed his desire to retire from public life.

Mr Giersek was unanimously re-elected as first secretary. Altogether four members of the 14-man Politburo were

dropped, in what amounted to a major shake-up. Besides Mr Jaroszewicz they were Mr Jozef Kepa, former chief of the Warsaw party; Mr Stefan Olaszewski, former Foreign Minister; and Mr Jozef Tejchma, former Minister of Education.

Mr Henryk Jablonski, the Head of State was among the 10 members who were re-elected.

The downfall of Mr Jaroszewicz, Prime Minister since December, 1970, signalled the conclusion of a fierce power struggle and clearly consolidated the position of Mr Giersek.

Mr Jaroszewicz, who rose from humble origins as a rural school teacher to the number two post in the party hierarchy, came under bitter attack during the five-day congress in a well-orchestrated plan to make him a scapegoat for Poland's economic crisis.

No Prime Minister has ever lost his post during a party

## Welshmen tune up for victory at 'HQ'

From Tim Jones  
Cardiff

The madness, endemic and incurable, has gripped the southern valleys again as 710 stone of prime Welsh beef prepare to halt the English rugby revival in its tracks.

In their thousands the valley boys will descend today on HQ, as they disparagingly call Twickenham, to cheer and sing their champion team to victory. To the Welsh only the margin of victory is in doubt and the Western Mail has thrown caution to the wind. In bold type it has proclaimed: "Wales are going to win."

To witness this clash with the old enemy the Welsh have gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure they will be at or near Twickenham.

Hundreds of coaches set off from the valleys at first light, their drivers and supporters and cases of beer to swamp HQ in red and white.

Some will have no tickets and will be carrying small fortunes in the hope of buying their admission to the ground. Warnings given weeks ago that all tickets have been sold are ignored as emotion overrides reality.

Others will arrive in style: eight businessmen will be chauffeured in the grand in two hired Rolls-Royces each flying a Welsh pennant.

Mr Colin Allen, the garage proprietor who has arranged the trip, has guaranteed that not a glass will move from the tables as his clients drink champagne along the motorway in premature celebration. They will miss nothing of the television buildup as each car is equipped with a set.

Stories of stylish travel are legion. One enterprising Barry man is said to have fitted out a pantechnicon with seats and spirit optics for the fans.

Many supporters are making the journey in the knowledge that they will not gain entry to the ground. They have booked hotel rooms as close as possible to Twickenham and will watch the battle on television.

A senior Welsh Office executive said: "I know it is mad but just being close will help the team."

England will have the services of an amateur faith healer, Mr Cyril Bell, to help them to victory. It is a start and may help to combat the view of Welsh fans that their players are unnatural bionic and become supernatural when they don the red jersey.

Rugby Preview, page 15

## House votes for limit of 24 weeks on abortion

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

The House of Commons voted decisively yesterday in favour of changing the abortion law so as to lower the upper time limit for ending a pregnancy to 24 weeks from the 28 weeks in Mr David Steel's 1967 Abortion Bill. This division figures were 275 to 172, a majority of 103.

The change came as an amendment to Mr John Corrie's Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which favoured an upper limit of 20 weeks.

The House rejected even more decisively, by 298 to 120, giving a majority of 178, as insufficient another amendment reducing the upper limit by only one week. The Commons were packed for the occasion, as it rarely is on a Friday; but in spite of the huge concern and the important moral and social issues at stake, there would appear to be little immediate likelihood of the provision being voted for reaching the statute book.

There is even greater certainty that Mr Corrie's Bill, as it now stands, will make little further progress, since it is expected that it will have to wait until next Friday for another Bill.

As the sittings closed there was still a formidable number of 20 groups of amendments remaining for debate. So far, in two sittings stretching for 10 hours, the House has completed only three groups of amendments.

There was no indication from Mr Corrie's Conservative MP for Ayrshire North and Bute, that, in the interests of the 24-week amendment, he was prepared to accept any compromises which would involve sacrificing the rest of his Bill.

Earlier in the day, however, he told the House that he would accept an upper limit of 22 weeks, instead of the 20 weeks stated in his Bill. "At this stage" he would not accept the 24 weeks proposal.

Yesterday, as the sittings started, Mr Jo Grimond, the former Liberal leader and one of the senior MPs involved in the 24-week compromise, presented a letter to Mr Corrie, but apparently with little effect.

Advising the House from the Government front bench, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, said that the widespread view of the Commons was to avoid the situation of a child being killed at an age when it might lead an independent existence. In that case, the upper time limit for an abortion must be 24 weeks or less.

More time may be sought, page 2

## Rhodesian churches target of bombers

Salisbury, Feb 15.—A bomb squad desecrated an explosive charge in front of the Roman Catholic cathedral in Salisbury today, not long after three powerful blasts damaged two Salisbury churches and destroyed a car in a black township.

Police said they believed they were dealing with a "deliberate campaign against churches". They thought that the four bombs were the work of one group, but did not know its identity.

One of the bombs last night blew up in a Presbyterian Church in central Salisbury, shattering the windows of the Monomatapa Hotel close by where the British Election Commissioner and other election officials are staying. Four people in the hotel were hurt by flying glass.

At about the same time, another bomb exploded in a public house in the upper-class suburb of Borrowdale in northern Salisbury. Earlier in the evening, a car blew up in front of a Methodist mission in the black township of Harare, killing at least two occupants of the vehicle. Police suspected they were carrying a bomb.

Both Patriotic Front movements have denied responsibility for the bombs. A spokesman for Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of one of the movements, accused the Rhodesian security forces of planting the bombs to discredit the guerrillas.

At the Sacred Heart Cath-

dral, where a priest this morning found 20 sticks of British-made TNT with a small detonator linked with a mortar shell that had not worked, police said that the words "Long live comrade President Robert Mugabe" were found written in Shona inside the sack holding the explosives.

African journalists said that there was a grammatical mistake that no native Shona-speaker would have made.

Meanwhile, the British administration in Salisbury says it is investigating allegations that the Rhodesian police have tortured returning refugees whom they suspected of being guerrillas.

British officials said the complaints had been lodged through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which is handling the repatriation. The cases involved refugees, most of them loyal to Mr Nkomo, who were returning from Zambia to a transit camp in western Rhodesia.

Mr Nicholas Morris, chief representative of the United Nations agency, said that about 130 refugees had been detained since repatriation started this month and about 50 of them remained under detention. Some have been returned to Zambia.

He said his agency views this situation "with the gravest concern". Photograph and Soames bias denied, page 4

## Unions give BL a fortnight to improve offer

A day of pay talks between BL management and unions ended in total disagreement. The company was given a fortnight in which to improve its offer, after which the unions will decide what action to take. A senior union official said that did not mean a strike would be called. "We do not want a strike", he said.

## Israeli attack on British policy

Dr Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's first ambassador-designate to Egypt, bitterly attacked the Middle East policy of the British Government, comparing it with the Chamberlain Nazi Germany. The harshness of his criticism was seen as a reflection of a growing clash between Britain and Israel over possible Palestinian participation in the Middle East peace process.

## Schmidt warning to Russia over alliance

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has given a firm warning to the Soviet Union that any attempt to separate the United States from its European allies over the issue of Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan would fail Page 4

## Taylor equals record

England's wicketkeeper, Bob Taylor, equalled the world Test record of seven catches in an innings as India were bowled out for 242 on the first day of the Jubilee Test in Bombay.

## Briton for Vatican

Father Agnellus Andrew, doyen of British religious broadcasting, has been appointed acting head of the Vatican's press and broadcasting relations. He will be a bishop and senior British member of the Roman curia.

## Muhammad Ali may seek title again

There is a 75 per cent chance that Muhammad Ali will fight for the world heavyweight boxing championship for the fourth time, he said in London. He added that he might be president of the United States by 1988.

## Windscale fear: A worker at the nuclear plant may have inhaled more radioactivity than permitted

3

## Johannesburg: The South African Prime Minister has invited leaders of black homelands to discuss the country's future

4

## Moscow: A Soviet newspaper has accused Dr Andrei Sakharov of fascism, subversion and betraying nuclear secrets

5

## Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 10, 24; Appointments, 10, 3; Home and Garden, 23; Postal Shopping, 23

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## Membership of Shah inquiry nearly completed

From David Cross  
Washington, Feb 15

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, was putting the finishing touches today to the commission of inquiry to look into Iranian grievances against the regime of the deposed Shah.

The setting up of the commission was approved in principle by President Carter

last night. The first step in a plan to secure the release of the 50 hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran.

A spokesman for Dr Waldheim said the names of members to the commission will probably be announced "very soon", possibly even by the weekend.

There are expected to be up to seven members including representatives from Pakistan and Algeria, as well as international men of stature like Mr Louis-Edmond Perotti, the French jurist and Mr Sean MacBride, the former Irish Foreign Minister.

There is investigation promptly and probably complete its work within a couple of weeks.

The terms of reference of the commission and the timing of the possible release of the hostages are still not clear.

Earlier this week, President Carter said the commission must have a "carefully defined purpose" and that any steps taken to end the seizure of the embassy must be "consistent with our goals and our essential international principles".

This apparently means that the Administration is willing to approve the commission only if it will demonstrably lead to the swift return of the hostages and it does not develop into an international "trial" of past American support for the regime of the exiled Shah.

Ideally the administration here would like the hostages to return home the moment the commission set foot on Iranian soil. But this point is still under negotiation and President Carter might accept a short delay in their return to the United States.

Tehran condition: Mr Sadeq Otabadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said the hostages would not be released until after the proposed commission has published its results.

He said that Dr Waldheim told him earlier that the commission would start work within the next two days.

He added: "The most important thing is to get the work of this commission started. If it gets down to serious studies I am certain it will facilitate the release of the Americans". —Reuter.

Paris activity, page 4

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HOME NEWS

# BL is allowed another fortnight by unions to improve pay offer

By Clifford Webb  
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Another day of pay talks between BL management and unions ended in total disagreement last night. The company was given two weeks in which to improve its offer, after which the unions will decide what further action to take.

Mr Grenville Hawley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union and chairman of the BL Cars joint negotiating committee, insisted that it did not mean that a strike would be called in two weeks.

"We do not want a strike at BL. We do not want to talk strikes, because we are conscious of the detrimental effect that could have on BL sales at this difficult time", Mr Hawley said.

"We are doing our best to avoid a strike, although the position is not hopeful in view of the company's failure to improve its offer. We cannot rule out any options, but we still want to come to a negotiated settlement."

The union negotiators were ready to meet the company at any time in the next fortnight, but they would expect more money on the table, Mr Hawley said.

Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, BL Cars director for employee relations, said the unions had rejected the offer of 5 per cent with 10 per cent for skilled workers, and an incentive scheme which could provide up to £15 a week more in return

for changes in working practices.

They had insisted on an improved increase for all employees. The cash was not available to do that and it was essential that the differential for skilled men should be retained to ensure that BL Cars kept its skilled workers to carry through its product and facility programmes, Mr Armstrong said.

The proposed changes in working practices were vital if BL was to become competitive. The management had made six concessions, including offers to set up joint working parties to consider changes in the proposed incentive scheme and to study methods of improving productivity.

The pay deal should have become operative from November 1 and the delay was resulting in the accumulation of substantial amounts of back pay, Mr Armstrong said. In the case of skilled men it was approaching £200.

The unions' reluctance to call a strike after three months of intense negotiations during which the company has not made a single concession of money is hardly surprising in view of the impending £25,000 layoffs and extensive short-time working which begins next week.

They are aware also that the postponed strike at Longbridge to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed shop steward, will almost certainly be called on Monday when the engineering union's Birmingham west district committee meets.

# Police chief reserves comment on mass pickets

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr James Brownlow, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, yesterday refused to comment on the picketing on Thursday outside the Hadfields steel plant in Sheffield, or on whether the law was sufficient to deal with mass pickets.

In a statement he said that with other chief constables he was to give evidence later this month to the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment. A police official said: "He considers it would be imprudent to talk in public before giving evidence to the committee."

But the police feeling about Thursday's scenes outside Hadfields, where 700 police from six different forces were drafted in to cope with 1,200 pickets, is that they achieved what was achievable.

There can be no argument that the scenes on Thursday were intimidating, although all but 14 of the day shift at the East Hecle works eventually got to work through largely unpicketed side gates, and in some cases by driving vehicles.

For most of the early morning the roads were blocked by hundreds of pickets even though a couple of dozen employees braved the chanting, hearing crowds to walk through to the main gates.

One elderly worker who walked the 200 yards down Vulcan Road to the gate, to boots, catcalls and cries of "scab", said as he arrived that it was "the loneliest walk of my life."

But despite the numbers, there was no serious violence. All the 22 arrested were charged with threatening behaviour rather than more serious charges such as assaulting the police, as wedges of constables forced pickets back on the pavement. Even then, 230 pickets remained at the top of the access road to the works.

Whether the threat to which Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, referred, of a charge on the works to drag employees out if they did not rejoin the strike, would have materialized later in the day is speculation.

But without provoking a riot, there was little else the police could have done except contain the crowd. Vulcan Road is long, narrow, high-walled and with no open spaces near by. It leads off the main Sheffield to Rotherham road, 200 yards from the city's main access to the M1.

To push the pickets further back would have meant blocking the main road, risking injuries from passing traffic, and risking public order to a greater extent than containing the activity, largely within Vulcan Road.

Arresting hundreds of pickets, even if the police had cell space, would almost certainly have provoked trouble with which they could not have coped.

With notable exceptions, the attitude of most constables was good-humoured, and one quoted the words of a senior officer briefing them: "We are here to win hearts and minds", he had said. "We are not here for confrontation."

# 'Challenge to resolve differences without violence' Minister condemns flying pickets

By Our Political Reporter

Visiting the heart of the worst scenes of picketing during the steel dispute, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said in Sheffield last night: "The steel dispute is a challenge to all of us in our society to resolve our differences without violence."

His special concern as Home Secretary was to see that in the difficult situations the criminal law was upheld and the Queen's peace preserved, he said at a dinner of the Sheffield Conservative Association.

"Here in Sheffield the efforts, the successful efforts, of the police deserve the highest praise," he said. "They have, in the face of severe difficulties, preserved the right to work of those who wished to do so. They have also shown that they are not simply there to serve the interests of one side or another, but to serve impartially society itself."

Assuring the people's right to work was an integral part of that responsibility. "In the steel dispute, here in Sheffield as elsewhere, the police have been able to assure those concerned, both workpeople and management, that those who wished to go about their business could do so," he said.

"The chief constable has

made it absolutely clear that the assurance still stands. It is not for any failure of determination or effort on the part of the police that events at Hadfields have taken on their present turn."

Without directly referring to the appearance on the picket line of Yorkshire miners, Mr Whitelaw said: "At the same time, the scenes we have witnessed in this city are not what we would regard as successful picketing is about. We have seen large numbers of people coming in from outside the area, indeed, from outside the steel industry, who have no dispute with the firm but are intent on turning the picket line into a mass demonstration."

The purpose of picketing at an industrial dispute was peacefully to persuade. "Can it really be claimed that this has been a peaceful picket line in a responsible fashion?" he asked.

The steel strike was described as a Greek tragedy by Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a speech to the Mid-Sussex Conservative Association at Worthing Abbey.

The disasters could be seen everywhere, he said. The financial losses to the workers had mounted to a formidable total, he said. But the steel industry would be struck a deal?

There was no doubt that some customers of the British Steel Corporation were thinking of leaving their bets by seeking an alternative supplier.

Law, capable. The law as it stands is capable of dealing with situations like those at Hadfields, the private steel company in Yorkshire, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday (The Press Association reports).

Speaking in Newcastle upon Tyne Mr Prior said the Government would soon announce proposals to deal with certain types of secondary picketing.

When asked about Hadfields, he said: "There is nothing the Employment Bill or any other legislation could do which could already be done under law. If there are large numbers of people picketing, that in itself can be intimidation. It can lead to a breakdown in law and order, and it is up to the police to take whatever action they need to take."

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, said in Cardiff yesterday that steel pickets should follow procedures laid down by the TUC a year ago. He described the Government's plan to cut supplementary benefits to strikers' families as monstrous.

# Mass pickets switch to other companies

From a Staff Reporter

Steel pickets from South Yorkshire plan to switch their mass demonstrations next week to other main private steel companies still in production. This comes after their success in shutting down Hadfields, in Sheffield, on Thursday.

Mr Edward Thorne, secretary of the divisional strike committee, said yesterday that the next targets would be the Norwegian-owned, Manchester-based, and then the Shearness Steel Company, if action by steel pickets and Kent miners had not already closed it. "They have got to fall and fall they shall," he said.

The strike committee, which yesterday was still jubilant about its success in shutting Hadfields, had learned lessons from Thursday's pickets, he said. The main target was blocked from 5 am by 1,200 pickets, but too few arrived too late at other gates to stop most of the workforce from entering.

The steelworkers are unlikely to mount their new offensive on Monday. The South Yorkshire Association of Trades Councils has called for a 24-hour stoppage in South Yorkshire as part of the TUC's campaign against the Government's economic policies. The steelworkers will probably stay in Sheffield to support that demonstration. Union officials are expecting widespread support for the strike from several groups, including engineers, white-collar town hall workers, miners and members of the National Union of Public Employees.

Mr Thorne said: "We are organizing now." He hopes to get several hundred pickets mobilized from Tuesday onwards. He said the striking steelworkers had been "refreshed" by the closure of Hadfields. "Like any warfare, a victory is something to be appreciated. Our objective right from the beginning has been to shut all engineering industry down in this country."

The scene outside Hadfields yesterday was unusually peaceful, after Thursday's mass demonstration, with only a few pickets at the gates in the early morning, as the plant ran down to closure. The bulk of the 2,800 workforce will be laid off next week.

But Mr Derek Norton, chairman of the company, said they intended to fight on. The directors and works convenor are to visit London on Monday, when the position of the private sector in the strike is to be reviewed again by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. We intend to make our views known," he said.

# Abortion Bill needs time

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Sponsors of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill are likely next week to press Government business managers for cooperation after yesterday's debate indicated that the Bill was running to ground because of parliamentary timetable pressures.

Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute, who initiated the Bill, said last night: "I am very downhearted about the whole business."

There was only one more day for the Bill and he did not expect it would survive if the same filibustering tactics as were deployed yesterday were adopted on February 23, when next comes before the Commons.

Some of his colleagues, however, were in a more abrasive mood and it is thought that they will ask the Government to suspend the normal adjournment rule on February 23 so that the debate can continue.

Government business managers would react only if it was made clear that most MPs would agree to suspension.

What is certain is that supporters of the Bill will not be satisfied unless there has been debate on criteria for abortions and the clause dealing with conscience. The clause on criteria had just been reached when yesterday's debate ended. That means that several other amendments to the Bill would have to be withdrawn to allow time for debate on the two crucial clauses. It was decided last night that Mr Guy Barnett, Labour MP for Greenwich, an opponent, had put his name to the pro-abortionist amendments and would insist that they should be debated.

# Irishman elected as Oxford's new public orator

From Our Correspondent

Oxford University's new public orator is an Irishman, Mr Geoffrey Bond, aged 55, senior fellow in classics at Pembroke College, won the post in an election of university dons.

The £2,000-a-year, part-time job represents almost a dying art at the University, composing and reciting speeches in Latin. Nowadays an English translation is provided, not just for guests but also for dons unversed in Latin.

"When I first came to Oxford practically all the classics students used to compose Latin prose," Mr Bond said. "Every senior member of the university would understand a Latin speech, but not any more. My aim will be to be simple, short and clear."

Mr Bond, who is married, will continue at his Pembroke post. The present orator, a Westminster John Griffiths, of Jesus College, has made nearly 90 speeches in seven years.

# Rules for the ferry price battle

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Combatants in the ferry price war are meeting to agree ground rules that will stop their skirmishes upsetting the travel trade.

At the instigation of the shipping committee of the Association of British Travel Agents, three companies operating the short sea routes to France are meeting to discuss presenting their special offers and tariff revisions in common format so that travel agents can understand them readily.

"It is being looked upon as a matter of decency," Mr Alan Fowler, chairman of the shipping committee, said yesterday. "This will sort out much of the confusion that has arisen about ferry fares."

Sealink announced on Thursday that its monthly bargain offer for March would be a £40, 10-day return ticket to the continent for a car and up to four adults.

It also said that its February offer (£20 return for car and two adults) had increased traffic in its first weeks by half over February last year.

# Police chief reserves comment on mass pickets

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr James Brownlow, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, yesterday refused to comment on the picketing on Thursday outside the Hadfields steel plant in Sheffield, or on whether the law was sufficient to deal with mass pickets.

In a statement he said that with other chief constables he was to give evidence later this month to the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment. A police official said: "He considers it would be imprudent to talk in public before giving evidence to the committee."

But the police feeling about Thursday's scenes outside Hadfields, where 700 police from six different forces were drafted in to cope with 1,200 pickets, is that they achieved what was achievable.

There can be no argument that the scenes on Thursday were intimidating, although all but 14 of the day shift at the East Hecle works eventually got to work through largely unpicketed side gates, and in some cases by driving vehicles.

For most of the early morning the roads were blocked by hundreds of pickets even though a couple of dozen employees braved the chanting, hearing crowds to walk through to the main gates.

One elderly worker who walked the 200 yards down Vulcan Road to the gate, to boots, catcalls and cries of "scab", said as he arrived that it was "the loneliest walk of my life."

But despite the numbers, there was no serious violence. All the 22 arrested were charged with threatening behaviour rather than more serious charges such as assaulting the police, as wedges of constables forced pickets back on the pavement. Even then, 230 pickets remained at the top of the access road to the works.

Whether the threat to which Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, referred, of a charge on the works to drag employees out if they did not rejoin the strike, would have materialized later in the day is speculation.

But without provoking a riot, there was little else the police could have done except contain the crowd. Vulcan Road is long, narrow, high-walled and with no open spaces near by. It leads off the main Sheffield to Rotherham road, 200 yards from the city's main access to the M1.

To push the pickets further back would have meant blocking the main road, risking injuries from passing traffic, and risking public order to a greater extent than containing the activity, largely within Vulcan Road.

Arresting hundreds of pickets, even if the police had cell space, would almost certainly have provoked trouble with which they could not have coped.

With notable exceptions, the attitude of most constables was good-humoured, and one quoted the words of a senior officer briefing them: "We are here to win hearts and minds", he had said. "We are not here for confrontation."

# Picket line driver is charged

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Between 8,000 and 10,000 haulage drivers have been laid off because of the steel strike. The total will mount higher unless there is an early settlement.

Although industry generally has managed to maintain production by living off stocks, which are higher than normal, the fact is that haulage work is being lost. The BSC strike will increase towards the end of this month. A settlement is not expected until early next month.

The strike has already had an impact on oil company forecasts for the level of consumption this year and large oil companies have begun to modify their earlier forecasts for the full year.

Last night the Road Haulage Association, which two weeks ago estimated that 5,000 drivers

# 8,000 haulage drivers laid off by strike

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Last night the Road Haulage Association, which two weeks ago estimated that 5,000 drivers

had been laid off, said that it now estimated the total at between 8,000 and 10,000, reflecting the effect of the strike by employees of private sector steel producers, particularly in South Yorkshire, the Midlands and Wales.

A spokesman for the association said that hauliers were seeking alternative business. Against the background of little extra business, it was advising members to lay up vehicles rather than become engaged in a battle for business at uneconomic rates.

The strike has led to the oil industry revising its forward forecasts for oil consumption for the first half of the year. The BSC strike has led to a 4 per cent drop in consumption this year compared with last year's total of about 94 million tonnes, has told the Department of

Energy that it now expects consumption to be down by 5 per cent on those levels.

If the strike continues for another three weeks it would cut consumption to be down by 6 per cent over the year.

The company's original forecast for reduced consumption had been based on a reduced level of deliveries to the Central Electricity Generating Board, the midwinter and price rises.

With the notable exception of Metal Box, which has had to lay off 5,000 workers in its open top can-making operation and to produce short-time working in other sectors, manufacturing industry has been able to maintain normal production.

Shortages are beginning to develop, however, and the impact on employment will

increase over the next fortnight.

The involvement of the private sector workers in the dispute will aggravate difficulties. The executive council of the British Independent Steel Producers Association, which has 100 members, is to meet early next week to consider its next moves.

The private sector companies, which account for about a quarter of United Kingdom steel consumption, estimate that losses at £10m a week.

Prospects are slightly brighter for a few of the 7,000 workers at the doomed BSC plant at Shotton who are losing their jobs. Two main European steel producers, Hoogovens of Holland and Klockner of West Germany, are trying to recruit skilled workers aged under 40.

More than 20 different jobs have been advertised, offering pay of between £120 and £160 a week.

# Retrial for officer on £250 bribe charge

By Peter Hill

A jury at the Central Criminal Court was unable to agree yesterday at the trial of a senior London detective who is alleged to have accepted a £250 bribe to stop the prosecution of a youth charged with robbery.

The Common Sergeant, Judge John Leonard, OC, discharged the jury, who had retired for four hours, and ordered a retrial.

He extended bail for Detective Chief Inspector Colin Hayling, aged 39, head of the CID for Y division, covering the Epsford and Tottenham area, in north London.

Mr Hayling, of Lambourne

# Couple win fight to move daughter from Broadmoor

By Peter Hill

The parents of Diana Irons, who was convicted of trying to murder them, have won a three-year campaign to have her moved from Broadmoor to a psychiatric hospital at Farnham, Hampshire.

The girl, now aged 18, was ordered to be detained for life by Winchester Crown Court in 1976.

Ms Daphne Irons said: "I am emotionally overcome. We have proved our point that Diana should never have been in Broadmoor in the first place. Now she is one step closer to coming home, where she can be given our love and care."

The news was broken to Mr and Mrs Irons by Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, where the couple live. He has been closely involved in their campaign.

Diana Irons was 15 when she was sentenced for attempting to murder her parents by cutting what she thought was a brake pipe on their car, and later setting fire to their garage and home.

The court was told that she became immersed in murder stories and got the idea of cutting the brake pipe from an episode of the *Straker and Hutch* television programme.

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# Port of London standstill as dockers' strike spreads

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

The Port of London was at a standstill last night after the strike by 1,000 dockers spread from the three enclosed docks to the riverside wharves, where a further 1,000 men did not report for work.

The riverside men, who work on wharves between Brentford and Gravesend, accepted on Thursday a 17 per cent pay deal to run from the beginning of the year and voted to strike in support of their colleagues in the enclosed docks.

Yesterday there were only two vessels in the enclosed docks waiting to be loaded with exports, instead of the 20 vessels, that could normally be expected.

The strike has been called by the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union (NASDU) over the employers' 12 per cent pay offer in response to the union's claim for 30 per cent.

A meeting yesterday of the Enclosed Docks Joint Industrial Committee, the main docks

negotiating body, was deadlocked and the employers are on Monday going to the Port Labour Executive Committee, the docks' arbitration body. It was not clear last night whether the union would also go.

The 3,000 dockers in the Transport and General Workers' Union are refusing to cross NASDU's picket lines and themselves are in dispute over a 40 per cent pay claim, having received the same offer.

Badly as they were steeling themselves for a long dispute with the employers claiming that they cannot afford to increase their offer, which would have to be paid for by increasing charges.

Workers at the Port of London also stopped work at Tilbury also stopped work yesterday in support of the NASDU members after working an hour. The container berths are covered by a separate agreement.

Vessels that would normally use the London docks are being diverted by their owners either to other British ports or to the Continent.

# Union postpones official water strike decision

By Our Labour Staff

The southern editions of the *Daily Mail* failed to appear yesterday because of a dispute involving members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union.

The management said that the dispute, which did not affect the edition of the *Daily Mail* printed in Manchester, had arisen when the electricians withdrew their labour after threatening industrial sanctions and demanding payment for time spent in a meeting. They were seeking a 15 per cent local pay increase.

A chapel (union office) representative, however, said the men had been dismissed after threatening to withdraw from work pending arrangements.

# Electricians' dispute stops 'Mail' editions

By Our Labour Staff

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# Sit-in assay workers seek steelmen's help

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

The workers sitting in and occupying the Birmingham Assay Office said yesterday that they would be turning off the security alarm system, as part of their fight to retain 60 jobs threatened by redundancy.

There has been a reduction of 40 per cent in goods requiring hallmarking since the sharp rise in gold and silver prices last month.

# Ali plea for freedom of religion

By Craig Seton

Muhammad Ali, in his own words "the most loved and recognized black man in the world", passed through London yesterday and at a hectic press conference condemned Russia, praised America, Islam and Japanese cars, and said there was a 75 per cent chance of his trying to become the heavyweight boxing champion for the fourth time.

Mr Ali, aged 38, who still looks fit and strong enough to be taken seriously when he

talks of a comeback, was on his way to another foreign mission, this time to a Japanese car in the Middle East.

Before he left for London he was quoted in Los Angeles as saying he had been offered \$18m to fight the reigning World Boxing Association champion, John Tate, and then the World Boxing Council titleholder, Larry Holmes.

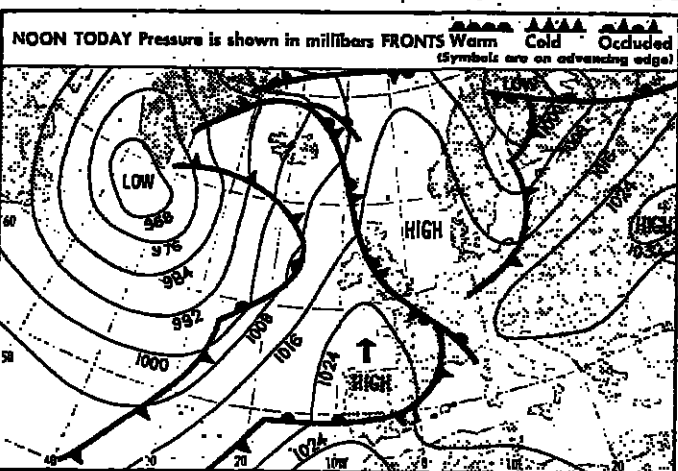
Mr Ali spoke hesitantly on his recent tour to persuade African nations to boycott the Moscow Olympics. He agreed that he probably had not changed anyone's mind.

His appeal was to anyone who believed in freedom, especially freedom of religion. "I will travel the world for America," he announced, and added: "I might become the first black President of the United States by 1988."

# £1m barracks plan

The Army is planning to spend £1m on the rehousing of soldiers at Roman Way camp, Colchester, Essex, as part of a national scheme to improve living conditions.

# Weather forecast and recordings





switch  
lanes

## HOME NEWS

# Ministry of Defence investigating whether wartime explosives lie on Shetland oil terminal seabed

From Ronald Faux  
Lerwick

The Ministry of Defence is investigating reports that wartime explosives may be lying in Sullom Voe, Shetland, which is being developed as the largest oil terminal in Europe.

The waters of the Voe, ideally sheltered for loading tankers, were a base for RAF flying boats on anti-submarine operations during the war. The base was a target for German bombers and was defended against air and sea attack.

When the oil terminal was being built detailed surveys were made of the tanker lanes and the terminal area around Calbeck Ness, but it is understood those surveys showed only the contours of the seabed and the presence of obstructions. They did not disclose the nature of any obstruction or what might be buried in the silt that

covers most of Sullom Voe's sea bed.

An airman who survived when his Saunders Roe London flying-boat caught fire in its moorings early in the war and sank has written to BP, the oil terminal operators, pointing out that when the aircraft went down it was armed with torpedoes.

There are other reports of aircraft crashing into the Voe, so there is a possibility that other explosive devices may be on the sea bed.

The letter from the airman, who lives in Kidderminster, has been sent to the Ministry of Defence, which is checking its records to find out how many aircraft were lost in Sullom Voe and whether any explosive armaments were lost or dumped there during the war.

A ministry official said yesterday that the case was being taken up by the air historical branch, which held the station

records of RAF Sullom Voe. They would check the details of any incidents or attacks on the base.

An Admiralty chart has been sent to the survivor asking him to mark the spot where his aircraft sank, and the port authorities are studying a photograph taken by a German reconnaissance aircraft showing where the flying boats were anchored.

"We first want to establish whether there are any reports of explosives being sunk for whatever reason and if so, where they are. Then we can decide on further action", an official said.

The possibility of unexploded weapons lying on the sea bed near or in Sullom Voe is clearly alarming. The terminal will have a peak flow of 1,000 tankers and some 60 million tons of oil moving through it each year. There will also be a terminal for liquid petroleum gas tankers.

## Poison test on fourth dead whale

By Frances Gibb

A fourth dead whale has been washed up on a south coast beach and is suspected of having been poisoned by chemicals from the sunken Greek freighter, Aeolian Sky.

It was found at Southsea, Hampshire, where several canisters from the ship have been washed up. Tests are being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on three other whales washed up earlier on Isle of Wight and Hampshire beaches, to determine the cause of death.

Meanwhile fears are growing about the extent of danger to the public as more canisters are swept ashore. Seventy-five were found on Isle of Wight beaches yesterday, making more than 1,000 so far, a dozen of which contain arsenic trichloride, which gives off lethal fumes if exposed to the air.

The Government's marine pollution department has calculated that if a member of the public was windward of a broken canister containing arsenic trichloride, and the air was dry, he would be at risk if within half a mile.

But a Department of Trade official said yesterday that would be the case only if the air was completely dry and still, which is rare. "In usual conditions, with a wind, the area of risk would be 100 yards".

Since the Aeolian Sky sank 12 miles east of Portland Bill last November several people have been taken to hospital suffering from fumes from a punctured canister.

Government officials say it is not possible to contain any of the remaining cargo with nets because of hazardous diving conditions. The only other solution would be to blow up the ship.

## More enlist in Forces but shortage remains

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

Recruitment to the Armed Forces rose again during the last quarter of last year and the outflow of disenfranchised sailors, soldiers and airmen continued to fall.

The trained strength, however, remains well below requirements for the mid-1980s. The latest figures from the Ministry of Defence are accompanied by a warning that there will have to be a further improvement in the first quarter of this year to meet the 1979-80 manpower targets; and that improvement will have to be sustained for at least another 12 months to fill longer-term requirements.

That there should still be a serious shortage of manpower in spite of a 24 per cent increase in recruiting and a 7 per cent fall in the outflow of 1978 reflects the low level of 1978 morale had fallen before last year's big pay awards. The RAF, for instance,

remains short of officers in spite of a 47 per cent rise in recruiting during the last quarter of last year. Its autumn intake of 116 apprentices was also disappointing.

Naval recruiting was up by 35 per cent and the number of applications for premature voluntary release continues to fall, although the rate remains high because of the high number of sailors who applied to leave during 1978. As a result the strength of the Royal Navy on December 31 was 1,800 lower than 12 months earlier.

Officer recruiting for the Army showed no improvement during the quarter, but soldier recruiting rose by 22 per cent. The outflow fell by 25 per cent for officers and 15 per cent for soldiers.

The Services in general ended the year with 2,400 more men and women than they had a year earlier. The totals on December 31 were: Royal Navy, 64,293; Royal Marines, 7,617; the Army, 159,048; RAF, 88,440. Total, 319,398.

## British device in satellite to check solar flares

From Our Own Correspondent  
Birmingham

The United States solar maximum mission spacecraft, launched on Thursday from Cape Kennedy, holds an unusual British device, developed at a cost of £250,000, which will be switched on from the ground on Monday.

It has been developed by the space research department at Birmingham University to enable a close examination to be made near the site of solar flares.

An official at Birmingham University said yesterday: "We are acknowledged as the world leaders in X-ray astronomy".

## Decision on new battle tank later this year

By Our Defence Correspondent

Britain will take the plans of its Nato partners into account before making a decision later this year on whether to proceed with full development of a new main battle tank for the Army.

That was promised yesterday by Mr Barney Hayhoe, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, after the recent announcement that France and West Germany are to collaborate in building a new tank.

Britain originally planned to develop a successor to the Chieftain in the late 1980s, in collaboration with the Germans.



Aconites blooming in front of the church bring a touch of spring to Thaxted, Essex.

## Dispute over inquest on man who died in custody

A date was tentatively set yesterday for an inquest on Mr James Kelly, a labourer who died in police custody, but there is a growing dispute over the venue. The parties involved have been told to appear at the inquest to start on March 24.

His family allege that Mr Kelly, aged 53, of Hutton, Liverpool, was beaten by police on waste ground after being found drunk. Police deny assaulting him.

The family's solicitor, Mr Alan Beak, complained yesterday that the "totally inadequate" venue chosen for the inquest by the Merseyside coroner, Mr Ronald Lloyd, was inadequate.

The coroner had offered the family premises for the inquest in Hutton. The coroner had rejected the offer.

## Clergy call for end to factory farming

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

Factory farming was condemned yesterday by a group led by the Very Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, Dean of Westminster. The group of 12, all of whom were said by the Dean to share certain deep Christian convictions, also called for an end to animal experiments in research on cosmetics and tobacco.

The group includes the Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, and the Rev Trevor Beeson, Canon of Westminster and treasurer of Westminster Abbey. It decided that although human influence over animals was unavoidable, it should not be exerted for frivolous reasons or without concern for the senses of animals.

"This has arisen out of a very deep moral concern", Dr Carpenter said at a reception in London. "Animals are almost sitting targets in some areas of human endeavour".

The group said in its report that hen batteries, veal crates and sow stalls were all unacceptable. "We now have around 45 million laying hens kept in crowded battery cages unable to spread even one wing", it said.

"We have around half a million sows kept in narrow stalls in which they are unable to turn round, and some tens of thousands of young calves destined for the white veal market kept in slatted-floored crates".

Such calves were unable to turn round, unable to lie down freely or even freely to groom themselves.

The group believed that farming should not be a purely industrial process divorced from the land. It did not condemn farms on which animals and birds were kept in husbandry but allowed to move freely.

The report is an unusually weighty contribution to the often angry debate about the use of animals in factory farms and laboratories. Mr David Coffey, a veterinarian and a member of the group, said the report was aimed at legislators in the hope that animals would be given more protection from abuse by humans.

Animals & Ethics (Watkins Publishing, Bridge Street, Dulverton, Somerset; £2).

## Docklands chief to get £12,000

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House Ltd, is to be paid £12,000 a year for his two-day-a-week job as chairman of the new Docklands Urban Development Corporation, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

Mr Leslie Young, chairman of J. Bibby and Sons Ltd, the agricultural and industrial group, receiving £3,000 a year as chairman of the Merseyside UDC.

## Policy switch to building smaller hospitals

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The Government is to switch the emphasis of the hospital building programme from big to small hospitals, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in London yesterday.

Big district general hospitals, some with 1,400 beds, tended to become impersonal, with bad communications and an increased risk of poor industrial relations, he told a meeting of the Association of Community Health Councils.

The meeting had been called to discuss the Government's document, *Patients First*, which among other things puts in question whether Community Health Councils (which cost about £4m a year) should be abolished.

Mr Jenkin said that the Government had an open mind on the issue. He was heard in silence when he listed six reasons for the retention of the "watchdogs of patients' interests" which he said added up to a formidable case.

There was some shaking of heads and shouts of "No" when Mr Jenkin gave six reasons against retaining Community Health Councils in the new National Health Service structure.

Among them were the hidden costs, undoubtedly substantial, incurred by health authorities in dealing with protests and representations; and the tendency to demand more and better services without apparent thought of what should be cut to pay for them.

There was, Mr Jenkin concluded, a balance to be struck.

## Big majority changes Bill's time limit for abortion to 24 weeks

House of Commons

By a majority of 103 votes, MPs amended Mr John Corrie's Abortion (Amendment) Bill to permit termination of a pregnancy of up to 24 weeks' duration instead of 20 weeks as the Bill proposed.

The amendment was carried by 275 votes to 172. This division followed another in which an amendment to substitute 27 weeks was rejected by 208 votes to 120, a majority of 178.

When the report stage resumed, Mr Leo Abse (Pontypool, Lab) said that although no 23 week baby had yet survived for 24 weeks, babies born after only 23 weeks' gestation could be very much alive.

He was speaking on the amendment to permit the abortion of a woman who had been pregnant for 27 weeks. With it being being considered, the amendment would increase the period in the Bill from 20 weeks to 24 weeks and another to 27 weeks. The present amendment would increase it to 24 weeks.

Mr Abse said he reluctantly drew back from the compromise of 24 weeks. Unhappily if it moved in an attempt to still the controversy on the basis of the 24 week amendment, it was almost inevitable they would fail.

Giving an abortion to a young teenager was a more difficult and compassionate way of resolving a current dilemma than it might withdraw from her forever the blessing of motherhood.

I believe turning life into death (he said) is the most reactionary thing that can happen to a young woman. It is not understanding that there is something progressive about such acts.

Mr John Corrie (North Ayrshire and Galloway, Con) was not prepared to compromise as yet in the way suggested by some Privy Counsellors, for an abortion up to 24 weeks would be a step in the wrong direction. He hoped the amendment proposing abortions up to 27 weeks would be withdrawn or rejected because there was no support for it.

His argument, against the 24 week amendment, was that there should not be an upper time limit where any mistake could occur. The evidence showed that 24 weeks was the limit. He hoped the amendment would support the amendment for 22 weeks because this did what was required. It gave patients and doctors time. There was no chance of the foetus surviving at that age.

Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab) said that a decision must be reached. He supported the appeal from five to seven weeks. He was a member of the group of 12 who had accepted a compromise of 24 weeks and to drop other aspects of the Bill.

The sponsors would be unwise (he said) not to see that they would have gained for themselves and for the victim if we could get acceptance of it. If the Bill had stuck to the single issue it would have been through by now. But it would fight the other parts of the Bill vigorously, genuinely and sincerely, not to filibuster or hold up the House, but simply because they believed the proposals were wrong.

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, Solicitor General for Scotland (Kilmorack, Perthshire, Con) said that the compromise proposal, whatever its merits, did not make the same change in the law of Scotland as in the law of England.

Although it was understood in England destruction of a foetus after 28 weeks was a crime, under the law of Scotland neither in the 13 years since the 1967 Act nor centuries before that, had it ever been a crime to destroy a foetus in utero at any stage of pregnancy if done for good medical reasons and in good medical practice.

That had always been the law and there had been no complaint about its operation. There had never been any time limit, but the law was clearer, and the destruction of a living foetus in utero at any stage, be it four or 40 weeks was homicide.

So the compromise proposed to the House would introduce into the law of Scotland a fundamental control and change which went against the law of Scotland on the matter of abortion.

He asked MPs to consider carefully before putting on a time limit what would make an error a criminal offence, if it did a doctor destroy a foetus in the 28th week, it would be no different to say that he had done so in good faith. It might be a mitigating factor in penalty but no defence to the crime because the person was absolute and the matter was absolute and the matter was absolute.

It is a bad principle of law (he said) to have a time limit.

A closure motion was carried by 223 votes to 172, majority 51.

The amendment to leave out the 20 weeks' limit for abortion proposed in the Bill and substitute the 24 weeks' limit was carried by 275 votes to 172, majority 103. This meant the amendment on 22 weeks could not be put.

Debate on a subsequent amendment was adjourned.

The Impact of Live Fish (England and Wales) Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned 9.35 pm.

## Euro MPs call for Olympic boycott

European Parliament

Strasbourg

Parliament carried a motion calling on the national governments of the European Community to advise their Olympic committees to advise athletes to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow and to advise them to advise athletes to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow and to advise them to advise athletes to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow.

This was one of three motions carried after a general debate on the Olympic Games in Moscow. The motion called for an immediate end to the enforced exile of Mr Andrei Sakharov and for all Community institutions to make active representations to the Soviet Union about securing the release of Soviet citizens prosecuted over their civil rights campaign.

The third motion called for an immediate EEC Commission embargo on all sales of surplus commodities to Russia.

With the invasion of Afghanistan and the exile of Mr Sakharov, Europeans were witnessing the two heads of Soviet policy side by side—aggression without and oppression within.

He said they had the growing presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, which did not threaten them, to which they had not been invited and who wanted them out.

He made it clear that he was not prepared to compromise as yet in the way suggested by some Privy Counsellors, for an abortion up to 24 weeks would be a step in the wrong direction. He hoped the amendment proposing abortions up to 27 weeks would be withdrawn or rejected because there was no support for it.

His argument, against the 24 week amendment, was that there should not be an upper time limit where any mistake could occur. The evidence showed that 24 weeks was the limit. He hoped the amendment would support the amendment for 22 weeks because this did what was required. It gave patients and doctors time. There was no chance of the foetus surviving at that age.

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House adjourned 9.35 pm.

## Windscale man affected by radioactivity

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

A worker at the Windscale nuclear fuel reprocessing plant may have inhaled more radioactivity than is permitted by government fixed safety levels.

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), the state-owned group which operates the plant, said that the worker was carrying out routine maintenance on the effluent treatment plant, which removes low level radioactivity from nuclear waste.

A monitoring check by the health physics team, which is present during maintenance, showed that the man had apparently inhaled more than normal levels.

He is in no danger, but has been taken off work involving radioactive materials until further checks are carried out. Of 15 similar instances reported last year, only one worker did turn out to have received an excessive dose.

Normal safety procedures were being followed when the worker was affected this week, with safety exits and breathing apparatus being worn. In such cases, however, an internal inquiry is instituted and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and union representatives are told.

The Inspectorate is to report within the next few weeks on a leak from an underground silo at Windscale, which has caused BNFL considerable embarrassment.

Correction

The West German Ambassador, shown in a photograph yesterday, was accompanied by Major-General Lord Michael Fitzmaurice, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, not by Mr K. W. H. du Boulay.

## Vatican appointment for BBC broadcaster

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Father Agnellus Andrew, the doyen of religious broadcasting in Britain, was yesterday appointed by the Vatican as the acting head of its press and broadcasting relations.

He is to become a bishop, with the title of Vice-President of the Pontifical Commission in Social Communication, and will be the senior British member of the Roman Curia.

Father Andrew is well known for his BBC television commentary on Roman Catholic ceremonies, including papal funerals and installations. He is director of the Catholic Radio and Television Centre at Hatfield, Middlesex, where for 21 years he has trained about 5,000 clergy and laymen from Britain and overseas in broadcasting.

Father Andrew is 71 and a Franciscan. Formerly assistant head of religious broadcasting



Father Andrew: To run media relations in Rome.

He said in London yesterday that he had experienced all the frustrations of journalism and broadcasting in dealing with the Vatican and wanted to see how far he could open it up. He will have direct contact with the Pope.

The president of the commission, the Right Rev Andrew Desker, is permanently incapacitated and Father Andrew is to collaborate in building a new tank.

Father Andrew is a qualified television producer and a member of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, and he proposes to continue his membership of that union while in Rome.

The meeting had been called to discuss the Government's document, *Patients First*, which among other things puts in question whether Community Health Councils (which cost about £4m a year) should be abolished.

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## Two UDA men jailed for conspiracy to murder

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Two members of the Protestant paramilitary Ulster Defence Association were jailed in Dublin yesterday for plotting to kill a man cleared in the Mountbatten murder trial last year.

Albert Taylor, sentenced to seven years, and Thomas Mulligan, given five years, called off their plan when a coincidental Provisional IRA bombing created extra police activity around the Irish border on the night scheduled for the killing, the Special Criminal Court was told.

The intended victim, Francis McGil, aged 24, of Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, was to have been shot in a bar owned by his uncle, Mr John Joe McGil, a veteran republican, five days after he was acquitted by the court of murdering Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

Thomas McMahon, of Co Monaghan, was jailed for life for the Mountbatten killing. Both men were later cleared of IRA membership charges.

The court's three judges heard that the abandoned murder conspiracy was hatched by a group of high-ranking UDA men in a workmen's hut at Rathcoole, near Dublin.

Mr Noel MacDonald, for the prosecution, said that Mr Taylor, aged 32, a fork lift truck

## The Shah seeks lifting of ban on sale of stud

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The Shah of Iran has started High Court proceedings in London to remove a legal bar that is preventing the sale of his stud and stables in Surrey.

He is suing Mr Soeb Mehrani and the Iranian Horse Society, who claim that the Shah does not own the property, Scimitar, at Bushbridge, near Goswami, but holds it on trust for the society.

Mr Richard Scott, QC, for the Shah, told Mr Justice Oliver yesterday that the Shah was the registered proprietor of the property, which he acquired in 1976.

Contracts were exchanged in December for the sale of the property for a substantial sum. It was then discovered that a "caution" (a notice claiming an interest in a property) had been entered against the stud at the Land Registry in the name of Mr Mehrani, purporting to act on behalf of the Iranian Horse Society. Until the "caution" was removed the land could not be sold, Mr Scott said.

The judge gave leave for the proceedings to be served on the society at the Iranian Embassy in London, and adjourned the case until next Friday.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Herr Schmidt advises Russians against trying to split West

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 15

The Soviet Union was given a firm warning here today by Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, that any attempt to drive a wedge between the United States and its West European allies over events in Afghanistan would fail.

Speaking after talks with Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, Herr Schmidt said that the solidarity of the Nato alliance and the maintenance of military parity between East and West were "one side of a coin of which the other side is détente".

The Chancellor went on: "The Soviet Union must be made to understand that any attempt, by threats or by incentives, to separate the United States from its European allies would be in vain and counter-productive."

The rules of peaceful coexistence had been violated by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and West Europe could not remain an oasis of détente, when the conditions necessary for détente were not being observed elsewhere in the world, Herr Schmidt declared.

Ever since the Afghanistan crisis there had been constant close contact between the West German and American governments, Herr Schmidt said, adding that he regarded these consultations as being of the highest importance. "No one should imagine that we Germans can be parted from our American allies", the Chancellor asserted.

Observers here were struck by the West German leader's repeated and emphatic reference to the need for close co-operation with the Americans in determining the West's response to Afghanistan.

His remarks were seen in part

as an attempt to counter the impression of disarray in Western ranks caused by the refusal of the French last week to go along with an American suggestion for a meeting in Bonn on February 20 of the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the United States.

Asked about a boycott of the Moscow Olympics, both Herr Schmidt and Mr Martens said that their governments had not taken a decision and were working for a common position of the nine EEC member-states. This would be one of the subjects discussed by EEC foreign ministers in Rome next Tuesday.

Both leaders emphasized, however, that it was up to the Soviet Union to restore the conditions in which the games can take place normally.

Questioned about recent reports of a Franco-West German agreement to delay the institutional development of the European Monetary System (EMS), Herr Schmidt confirmed that he saw no need "to be in too much hurry" but denied that there was any pact between himself and President Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Schmidt said that to ensure the success of the second stage of the EMS, originally due to take effect in March 1981, it was important to proceed carefully and not "lightheartedly". He believed the second stage could be achieved in the course of 1981.

The second stage of the EMS is supposed to cover, among other things, the establishment of a European monetary unit (ECU) as a reserve asset.

Herr Schmidt appealed to the British, who at present are not members of the exchange rate mechanism, to play a full part.

## Spain puts alleged Soviet spy on Warsaw flight

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Feb 15

The police escorted the manager for Spain of a Soviet airline Aeroflot on board an airline bound for Warsaw today. He was at least the fifth Soviet official or diplomat to be expelled accused of spying in the three years since diplomatic relations were established between Spain and the Soviet Union.

The Spanish authorities reportedly caught Mr Oleg Suranov, the Aeroflot manager, red-handed with a "material of military interest". An appeal by Mr Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet Ambassador, to allow Mr Suranov to remain in the Soviet Embassy, until the flight to Moscow tomorrow was rejected.

Mr Suranov was held in a basement cell at the national police headquarters in Puerta del Sol until shortly before take-off of the first aircraft bound

for Eastern Europe, which was a flight by the Polish airline LOT to Warsaw.

The Soviet embassy protested against what it called the "provocative measure" taken against Mr Suranov, and denied several other Soviet reports that several other Soviet citizens had been asked to leave Spain, without publicity, during recent months.

Sources said that Mr Suranov was arrested on Thursday, and that investigators linked him to an arms cache found in a Madrid flat.

The Foreign Ministry had no comment, except to point out that Mr Suranov was an employee of a foreign airline and did not have diplomatic status.

The last previous Soviet agent to be expelled from Spain, as far as is known, was Mr Yuri Pavlovich Popov, an executive of the joint Spanish-Soviet fisheries company, Intramar. He was expelled in May, 1978.

## Woman in long murder trial dies aged 82

London, France, Feb 15—

Mme Marie Besnard, who was accused in 1949 of poisoning 12 members of her family, including two successive husbands, with arsenic, has died here, aged 82.

She went on trial before the assize court in Poitiers, near by, but the case was dismissed and transferred to another court because of deficiencies in reports from toxicology experts.

At her second trial in Bordeaux, expert witnesses disagreed—each claiming the bodies could have seeped in from the cemetery soil, it was said—and the court adjourned without a verdict. Mme Besnard was released on bail after spending seven years in prison.

The case was taken up again by the Bordeaux court in 1961 and once again the experts were in complete disagreement, so Mme Besnard was acquitted.

## French Communists take positive view of the Pope

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 15

"We take a positive view of John Paul II", M. Maxime Gremetz, the secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee responsible for relations with Christian movements, and a member of the European Assembly, declared to Agence France-Press.

He admitted that some of the Pope's doctrinal positions "seem a little conservative", notably in matters of contraception and sexuality. "But that is a matter for Christians. What interests us are his actions in the international field."

The Pope's visit to Poland showed that he accepted "the reality of the socialist world. He said to the Christians: you must contribute to the construction of this society, to the welfare and development of the Polish nation."

The Pope's battle for disarmament, for a more just economic order, for the rights of man, was another subject of satisfaction for French Communists. "His definition coincides with ours: not only freedom of expression, but the right to homes, work, culture, and so on", M. Gremetz said.

This gave French Communists the possibility of conducting common actions with Christians. M. Gremetz men-

## Tavern cancels SS reunion after threats

Coblenz, Feb 15—

A West German bar owner said today that he has cancelled a reunion of former Nazi soldiers after threats to kill him and his family.

The old comrades association of the SS booked the bar from April 18 to 20 for its reunion. Hitler's birthday, April 20, was a public holiday under the Nazis.

Herr Ernst Dötsch, the bar owner, said that as well as receiving anonymous threats to kill him and his family and to burn down his tavern, he had been told by some customers that they would cancel bookings for meetings and parties.

Political parties, trade union and religious organizations had also protested.

One of the advertised purposes of the reunion was to help locate SS men missing since the Second World War.

On religion in Russia, M. Gremetz said: "There are many believers over there, and their numbers are not declining. In the long article entitled 'Heaven, Earth... and the horizon', on relations between Marxists and Christians, L'Humanité, the Communist paper, states that according to the twenty-third congress last year, the party rested on its spiritualism, which was both materialist and dialectical. But it did not mean to deduce its policy from this theory."

It went on: "Communists and Christians have in common a creative energy which endows them with generous ardour... which commits them to solidarity and the respect of certain moral values... One can assert that the human and evangelical values, their potential of struggle, long sterilized but stored up by the underprivileged, are reemerging, and tend to merge with the socialist movement for a different society."

"Christians cannot ignore such an incarnation, and Marxists cannot ignore the indifference to such an evolution."

## OVERSEAS

## Commission on Shah likely to sit in Paris

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 15

Paris, with New York, has become the centre of behind-the-scenes negotiations on the issues of creating an international commission of inquiry into the behaviour of the Shah and of the release of the hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran.

The question of the hostages will be raised by M. Jean François-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, in his talks with Mr Sadegh Zohabi, the Iranian Secretary of State, who arrived in Paris from Rome this afternoon. The commission probably will sit in Paris and according to informed sources, it will include representatives of Algeria, Syria, Venezuela and Bangladesh, as well as Mr Sean MacBride, the former Irish Foreign Minister, and M. Louis Edmond Pettit, French lawyer and human rights specialist.

The French Government supported the resolution to give United Nations Security Council Secretary-General, a mandate to seek a solution to the problem of the American hostages, but it will want to know the commission's mandate, its composition and the link between its creation and the liberation of the American hostages before agreeing that it should sit in Paris.

Mr Zohabi said on arrival here this afternoon that the setting up of the commission would not lead automatically to the liberation of the hostages. Then would only proceed after the commission had submitted its report or 15 days after it had started work. The official announcement of its composition by Dr Waldheim would take place tomorrow or Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Minister added.

Mr Zohabi said the commission of inquiry would be made up of non-governmental personalities rather than representatives of third countries. He said the United States so far had done nothing other than accept the principle of an international commission. It must also include in its composition personalities of third countries.

In addition to M. Pettit, several other French lawyers have been asked to assist Dr Waldheim in setting up the international commission. They are M. Nouri Abdalla, Christian Bourget, François Chéron and Bertrand Valette.

M. MacBride, a member of the International Association of Democratic Jurists, said yesterday that they were looking into the procedural aspects of the possible extradition of the Shah. In this connexion, he has made several visits recently to Panama and Tehran.

Mr MacBride and M. Nouri Abdalla are reported to have proposed to the Iranian Revolutionary Council the creation of a commission composed of non-governmental personalities, with the mandate of putting American "imperialism on trial", rather than the formation of a United Nations commission of inquiry into the Shah's regime preferred by Dr Waldheim.

M. Pettit declared categorically yesterday that a commission could only be set up under the aegis of the United Nations otherwise he would refuse to sit on it.

The hostages must be freed the moment the commission was set up or, he told Le Quotidien de Paris, "In no event should they be entrusted to the Iranian authorities. They could come and testify before the commission."

Agreeing from the question of the American hostages, Mr Zohabi is expected to discuss with M. François-Poncet the serious economic situation which has arisen between the two countries following the announcement by the revolutionary government of contracts signed by the Shah's regime.

Mr Lee was being released after a recommendation by the Internal Security Department.

Mr Lee was arrested in October, 1963, when together with a few others he called for a two-day general strike by the 37 communist-controlled trade unions, a statement.

He was a member of the extreme left-wing Borisan Socialist Party, formed after a split within the ruling People's Action Party of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister.

An Amnesty report, based on a survey in 1978, said there were more than 50 political prisoners held without trial in Singapore, four of them for more than 15 years.—Reuter.

## Nigeria plans new rail network

Abidjan, Feb 15—

Nigeria has drawn up a plan to link all ports, state capitals and the future capital of Abuja with a new railway network.

The plan, which is being financed by the World Bank, is based on a survey in 1978, said there were more than 50 political prisoners held without trial in Singapore, four of them for more than 15 years.—Reuter.

## 'Golden Triangle' key to Canadian election

From Patrick Brogan

Toronto, Feb 15

Southern Ontario, which calls itself the Golden Triangle, is a sort of dagger shaped between the Great Lakes, thrusting south into the United States. It is by far the richest and least esteemed part of Canada.

Quebec dislikes it because it is rich and English, the West dislikes it because it is rich and eastern, an attitude shared by the poor relations in the maritime provinces. Politicians find it difficult to get on with because of its extreme political volatility.

British Columbia is the only other part of the country with anything like the same flightiness. Elsewhere in Canada one or two seats at the most change hands in elections. All Alberta's 21 seats are Conservative, all but a handful of Quebec's 75 seats are Liberal. The Conservatives have the edge in the maritime provinces, the Liberals have only three seats west of Ontario, and the election will be decided once again in the Golden Triangle.

The Liberals, under Mr Pierre Trudeau, were defeated last May and Mr Trudeau resigned the party leadership in November. He was called back to the helm a month later when the Tory Government fell and Parliament was dissolved; but he

## Israeli envoy attacks British switch to policy of appeasement

From Christopher Walker

Jerusalem, Feb 15

Dr Elihu Ben-Elissar, Israel's first Ambassador designate to Egypt, today launched a bitter attack on the Middle East policy of the British Conservative Government which he likened to the appeasement doctrine of the prewar Chamberlain administration.

The harshness of Dr Ben-Elissar's criticism was seen in political circles as the first public reflection of a growing diplomatic clash between Israel and Britain over the possible involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the Middle East peace process.

Until his move to Egypt later this month, Dr Ben-Elissar remains Director-General of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

Israeli anger has been roused in the past week by persistent and so far unheeded reports that Britain is leading a European diplomatic initiative to secure support for a controversial amendment to the key United Nations Security Council resolution 242 which recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination. According to the reports, the move is seen by the British Government as a fallback position in the event of the peace process collapsing over disagreement on the issue of Palestinian autonomy.

It is suggested that it could be combined with some new form of international conference on the Middle East which would bring in other Arab countries.

Questioned on the British moves, Dr Ben-Elissar told the Foreign Press Association: "It is a destructive policy and I am only sorry that for some time now it has been a big country can sometimes show shortsightedness. Unfortunately it reminds us of the short-sightedness of another British government. I hope that this great country, Britain, will realize as quickly as possible that this way will not help the peace process."

Later a senior Israeli Government official confirmed to me that Dr Ben-Elissar had been deliberately making a direct comparison with Britain's appeasement policy towards

Nazi Germany. He added that the strength of his criticism was an accurate reflection of Israeli Cabinet feeling about the reported British initiative.

Dr Ben-Elissar disclosed that strong diplomatic protests had been relayed to the British Government by the Israelis. He accused the American Government of not being forceful enough in trying to stifle the British moves.

Dr Ben-Elissar also reacted angrily to recent American criticism of Israeli settlement policy, particularly that aimed at last Sunday's decision not to prevent Jews from settling in the centre of Hebron, the second largest town in the occupied West Bank.

"If the United States or any other country wishes to invoke our policy of settlements as a pretext for trying to modify resolution 242 or trying to bring the PLO into the negotiations, this will be a destructive element in the peace-making process," he stated.

He said the peace treaty was not "an initiative which should lead to the national suicide of Israel".

Dr Ben-Elissar, a former Mossad intelligence agent and close confidant of Mr Begin, Israeli Prime Minister, spoke passionately in favour of Jewish settlement in every part of the land seized by Israeli forces during the 1967 war.

His remarks came only 48 hours before the date set for the official opening of the first Israeli Embassy in Cairo and less than two weeks before he is due to present his own credentials to President Sadat.

He seemed likely to considerably sour the atmosphere as the Egyptian Government repeatedly rejected Jewish settlement on occupied land as a stumbling block to agreement on Palestinian autonomy. The latest strong-worded protest on the subject was sent earlier this week to the American Government by Mr Mustapha Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister.

Earlier Dr Ben-Elissar announced that the next round of negotiations on autonomy between Egypt, Israel and America will start in Zurich on February 27.

## Island exile after 16 years' jail

Singapore, Feb 15—

The Singapore Government today freed a political detainee held under emergency laws without trial for the past 16 years for alleged communist-inspired activities.

An official announcement said, however, that Mr Lee Tze Tong would be confined to the small offshore island of Pulau Ubin, as he had refused to give an undertaking not to engage in subversive activity.

His release came two weeks after a report by the London-based Amnesty International organization which accused the Singapore Government of systematically stifling political dissent by using the Internal Security Act which provides for detention without trial.

Amnesty also drew attention to four long-term political prisoners, including Mr Lee, and said their detention was without parallel in modern history.

The Singapore Government said Mr Lee was being released after a recommendation by the Internal Security Department.

Mr Lee was arrested in October, 1963, when together with a few others he called for a two-day general strike by the 37 communist-controlled trade unions, a statement.

He was a member of the extreme left-wing Borisan Socialist Party, formed after a split within the ruling People's Action Party of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister.

An Amnesty report, based on a survey in 1978, said there were more than 50 political prisoners held without trial in Singapore, four of them for more than 15 years.—Reuter.

## Resurrected paper snapped up

Peking, Feb 15—

The Peking Evening News, a popular newspaper which became famous for its allegorical attacks on Chairman Mao Tse-tung, reappeared today on the eve of the lunar new year, 13 years after it was suppressed during the Cultural Revolution.

Eager readers crowded around newsstands during the afternoon and the entire print run of half a million copies appeared to have been sold out.

Like its predecessors in the early 1960s, issue number 2824 was lively in style and had mass appeal. A front-page article with the headline "New giant panda fever hits Japan" outlined the welcome given to the Chinese panda Huan-Huan in Tokyo Zoo, and page two featured a problem column with solutions.

Despite the paper's political notoriety, dating back to the allegorical "Evolving Chats" and "Evolving Chats" in the 1960s by the late Deng Tuo, today's edition contained little about politics.

Its back page, however, featured personal reminiscences by a worker of Chou En-lai, late Prime Minister and hero of the moderate Communist old guard whose line the newspaper used to follow.

A front-page editorial said all the journalists deeply mourned former contributors who it claimed had died in the so-called "Gang of four" and Chairman Mao's one-time heir apparent Mr Lin Biao.

These included Deng Tuo, author of the veiled attacks on Chairman Mao, Wu Han, the controversial playwright, and Lao She, author of the novel The Rickshaw Boy, and the play Tea House, at present a box office success in Peking.

Reuter.



Damage to a church in Salisbury is examined after three explosions in the city on Thursday night killed two people.

## Soames bias allegation discounted in London

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Claims by officials of Mr

Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party of bias against them by Lord Soames, the Governor, as Southern Rhodesia moves towards the election were firmly discounted in Whitehall yesterday. It was made clear that the Governor had his own adequate sources of information which were not entirely reliant on the civil service establishment in Salisbury.

Nevertheless, Britain is viewing the continuing violence and intimidation with increasing unease and attention is being given to the timetable for the Commonwealth monitoring force a question which was left open in the report of the Lancaster House talks.

Mr Mugabe insists that the force should remain after the election to help create a climate of stability during the formation of a new government.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is on record as saying that the force would stay in Southern Rhodesia until independent status was achieved if that was the general wish.

## Mr Todd on terror charges

From Dan van der Vat

Salisbury, Feb 15

Mr Garfield Todd, former Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, is due to appear in court on February 22 on charges under the still operative anti-terror laws of the former Smith regime, he told The Times today.

Mr Todd, who is 72, was arrested last weekend and charged with aiding and abetting terrorism and failing to report the presence of terror-

auxiliaries has been a vexed question with the Patriotic Front but Britain is in no doubt that they are needed to help maintain security in the climate of election violence in view of the shortage of manpower in the rural districts. The counter-argument of the possible use of Zulu, Mr Mugabe's party's military wing, is not regarded as feasible in view of allegations against members of Zanu (PF).

Conspiracy claims: Britain and America had launched a criminal conspiracy in Rhodesia to do everything to stop the Patriotic Front from coming to power, the Russians said today. (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow.)

The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya said the forces of colonialism and racialism were stopping at nothing to resist inevitable changes. It accused the American Central Intelligence Agency of instigating tribal conflicts, trying to split the liberation movements and planning to destroy physically the Patriotic Front leaders.

Chief Gashu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the Inkatha movement, which has 300,000 paid-up members, said he would like to have a mandate from the KwaZulu Assembly and the Inkatha movement before taking part in the talks.

Mr Cedric Phatudi, Chief Minister of the Lebowa homeland, said: "I would like to see representatives of urban blacks, Coloureds and Indians on the committee."

While apartheid continues to operate in a state of flux it was revealed in Johannesburg today that eight unlicensed restaurants that might have been used to hold large department stores are in the process of being closed.

In another twist to the whole confused situation, Mrs Susan Green, a Cape Town mother of six children classified as Coloured has been forbidden by a magistrate to marry Mr Aubrey Jooste, a white man she has lived with for three years.

## Thirty killed as Amazon launch capsize

From Geoffrey Watkins

Mazaua, Brazil, Feb 15

The Amazon, now in the middle of the rainy season, claimed 30 lives yesterday when the launch Dominique capsized near Codajas, about 28 hours upriver from here.

There were 30 survivors including the crew. Most of the victims came from Codajas. The Dominque was believed to have been hit by floating trees.

Among the dead were two babies but a nine-month old boy in a lifejacket was washed to safety.

## Minor clashes in Izmir as police hunt arms caches

Ankara, Feb 15—

Most of the city of Izmir was peaceful but strike-bound today as riot police searched slum districts and left-wing students sniped at them. Residents described the clashes as minor.

Troops and police are holding hundreds of workers at a local sports stadium after storming a state-owned factory yesterday and under occupation by left-wing workers. Reporters in the Aegean resort city said the arrested workers were being questioned on charges of terrorism.

Public transport in the city was not running, apparently because of a general strike called by left-wing trade unions. Many shops and businesses were closed, residents said. The Izmir provincial governor, however, described the general strike as a fiasco.

General Kenan Evren, chief of staff of the Turkish armed forces, said today that the martial law commanders governing large parts of Turkey want increased powers to combat political violence in the slum district of Cimentepe were started by police and troops apparently looking for caches of arms, residents said. Troops clashed with rioting left-wingers, but there were no reports of the police firing back at snipers, the residents said.

Armed men held up a local bank and escaped with 400,000 Turkish liras (£1,743). No one was hurt.—Reuter.

Polish Politburo balanced position as number two in the Politburo was regarded as the most likely successor to the premiership. His transfer to the job was prepared by the fact that he was not re-elected to the party secretariat, whose members are not permitted to hold Government posts.

Four new members of the Politburo are: Mr Tadeusz Wrzaszczyk, aged 47; Mr Alojzy Karkoszka, aged 50, the Warsaw party chief; Mr Jerzy Lukaszewicz, aged 48; and Mr Andrzej Werblan, aged 55. They are regarded as bright and, in East European terms, young technocrats.

Mr Lukaszewicz and Mr Wrzaszczyk were known to be hardline party ideologists. Political sources said Mr Giersek had to bring the two into the Politburo because they were both what is officially called candidates for high office. But the sources said the party leader had balanced the political structure of the

## Mr Botha to consult S Africa's black chiefs

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, Feb 15

In one of the most daring moves of his short term as Prime Minister of South Africa, Mr P. W. Botha has decided to invite leaders of the black homelands to join in a discussion of intent "to all South Africans."

Last week Mr Botha was criticized in Parliament by the white Opposition for apparently backing down on clear hints he has given in speeches during six months of parliamentary recess that the so-called apartheid aspects of apartheid would be scrapped.

He said in Parliament today that he had given no room for "excuses" but had merely kept a promise to consult non-white leaders.

It has been widely accepted that Mr Botha's speech was tempered by the necessity to keep the volatile wing of the National Party happy.

But the disclosure that he is willing to consult and listen to homeland leaders' ideas about how South Africa should face its future was being seen last night by political observers as one of the most meaningful moves so far to restructure the apartheid system.

The Opposition as well as black leaders have long pressed for a national convention to discuss South Africa's future. While this is a convenient solution to the problem as far as the Opposition is concerned it would be, according to impartial observers, a near total abrogation of the elected Government's rights to executive function.

The decision by Mr Botha to hold a near-national convention is bound to cause severe ructions within the National Party. It is, therefore, an indication of Mr Botha's judgment of his authority in the party that he has leaked his intentions.

As a politician with more than 40 years' experience he is credited with knowing when to time things. His move to talk to black leaders coincides with persistent speculation that he is planning to call a snap election which will rid his administration of any taint of Mr John Vorster's regime.

Mr Botha, it is being suggested, is prepared to sacrifice some National Party seats in order to win a clean bill of health.

Black leaders so far have been cautious about their reaction to Mr Botha's invitation to sit round a table with him. It is obvious it has taken them by surprise.

Chief Gashu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the Inkatha movement, which has 300,000 paid-up members, said he would like to have a mandate from the KwaZulu Assembly and the Inkatha movement before taking part in the talks.

Mr Cedric Phatudi, Chief Minister of the Lebowa homeland, said: "I would like to see representatives of urban blacks, Coloureds and Indians on the committee."

While apartheid continues to operate in a state of flux it was revealed in Johannesburg today that eight unlicensed restaurants that might have been used to hold large department stores are in the process of being closed.

In another twist to the whole confused situation, Mrs Susan Green, a Cape Town mother of six children classified as Coloured has been forbidden by a magistrate to marry Mr Aubrey Jooste, a white man she has lived with for three years.

## Minor clashes in Izmir as police hunt arms caches



The appeal would be allowed and the assessment determined at £7,049. The Crown did not seek any order as to costs.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.



# Saturday Review

## Death, dope and delirium

by  
Gita Mehta

A French girl lives under a tree in a jungle behind Delhi University. She has been there nearly seven years. In that time she has borne two children to an Indian holy man. Now the holy man is dead. Her son, first fruit of union with an Indian ascetic, is dead. She has been charged with murdering him, and has denied the charges not in French but in the flawless Hindi she has learned during her sojourn in the jungle. The university students are not aware of her presence. The villagers are, but some think she is an incarnation of the Goddess. Others think she is a witch. Or insane.

"I took a vow with my guru that I would remain here seven years. In two months, my time will be up. What a seven years it has been. When I first saw the Teacher I couldn't believe my eyes. He was sitting under a tree, a fat old man listening to a transistor radio. All his disciples sat at his feet adoring him. I thought, what are they doing? This man is a *halwai*, a sweetmeat vendor!"

It was spring in the jungle. All the trees were in leaf. The French girl, blonde-haired, dark-skinned daughter skipped from rock to rock over the small stream that ran beside the side of the thorn tree, the only home she had ever known.

Her mother, wrapped in a thin cotton sarong, squatted by the stream and washed clothes like a village woman, picking the wet things up and striking them hard against the rocks to loosen the dirt.

"Now he's dead. And for months the police believed I had killed him. My guru! My own son! But I'm not scared of the police. I've seen enough of them in my life. It's because of them that I am in India today."

The child was shrieking at the trees, drowning her mother's voice. After each shriek she paused at though expecting a reply from the jungle. She danced toward her mother, explaining over her shoulder.

"I'm calling the peacocks. If they are nearby they'll come to me. I'm their friend."

Her mother put a hand on the child's shoulder and levered herself to a standing position.

"The guru had prepared me to face this from the beginning. When our son was born he warned me. 'This child is mine. He must come with me when I leave my body, so we may work together in our next incarnation.' I wept but the guru consoled me, 'I shall give you a don't worry. You will need comfort when the world accuses you of killing us? See where he died. Under this tree.'"

The French girl walked over to the thorn tree. Her child skipped along barefoot, behind her as the soapuds disappeared in a white slime behind the rocks at the bottom of the clearing.

"This is all that is left of the Master. This trident and this child. Oh yes, a don't worry cloth on which we conceived our children and on which he died. Would you say these are worth the lives of the two people you love most in this or any other world?"

She sat down on the green cloth and folded her hands in respect to the trident, the ascetic's iron trident, driven into the ground in front of the tree. But will the police believe you? Never say you are a foreigner, living in the jungle. You must be the murderer. If you are not, prove it.

"What can I prove? The Master lay down one night, closed his eyes, and never opened them again. As he took his last breath, my son, hardly a year old, sat up, folded his hands to his father's trident, and fell back dead. I screamed and fainted, my daughter in my arms. The next day the police came. They sat around this tree day and night for three weeks. Jealous disciples had told them I had poisoned the Master."

"I was destroyed with grief and the fever, and my daughter, a two-month-old baby feeding at my breast, whether I was conscious or unconscious."

"Sometimes a kind villager made me drink some water or some dal soup. Otherwise I too would have died. Finally, the police decided that I could be innocent. So they went away."

"What a tamasha, hey, Haran? When they thought I was a murderer?"

The French girl laughed and waved at a large muscular young Indian who had suddenly appeared at the far end of the clearing. The Indian's hair fell to his shoulders and his beard to



(An Berry-magnum)

his chest. He wore a red quilted vest over his naked shoulders and an amulet against the evil eye on a black string around his neck. He nodded absently at the French girl and disappeared behind a tree. When he reappeared he had changed his faded Levi's for a green-and-yellow striped sarong.

"I'll begin with my mother in France. She was *la vraie bourgeoisie*, always worried about the neighbours. She cared more about them than about me, so I ran away. I got a job as a groom in a rich man's stable. One night he tried to seduce me. But I'm not that kind of girl. I ran away again. He told my mother and Interpol that I had stolen a lot of money from him, with a gun. I ran all the way to Turkey. There I met some people in a tea stall who were leaving for India."

"Well, they managed to get me a visa, and I thought India was a big country, even Interpol won't find me here."

The Indian was sitting cross-legged on the ground. In front of him was a cotton bandana on which were placed several pouches. He was transferring small paper packets from one pouch to the other. Each time he moved a packet there was a roll of powerful muscles from his neck to his wrists.

"Once I got to India I left the Europeans, because they only talked of drugs. But some spoke of guru. They say in India the holy men are to be found in the mountains. I put all my belongings in a bag and set off for the mountains to find a guru. I had no money, but I was fed at the temples and slept in the fields."

"I remember I was in the holy city of Hardwar, standing by the river. I looked down and saw that in one hand I carried my passport, the guarantee of the President of France, that I was free to travel anywhere in the world. But where was I to go? In my other hand I carried my mala. Those beads were also a passport, to the ways of the spirit. I could only follow one of them."

"I chose and threw my passport into the river. As the passport hit the water, will you believe this? From those very ripples appeared the face of my guru, laughing and calling my name."

"I knew then that I had chosen the right path, and I began my real search for the Teacher."

To the thousands and thousands of the French girl's compatriots living in seedy hotels all over India, such behaviour would be dismissed as naïveté or insanity.

Why fling the passport into the river, especially when it

had so many unstamped visa pages?

She could have sold it at a good price. The resale value of a passport goes up in geometric proportion to the number of blank visa pages. If she had just waited until she got to Connaught Place in downtown New Delhi she would have been able to complete the transaction in a matter of minutes. Then she could have gone to the French Embassy, reported the theft of her passport, and got herself a brand-new *laissez-passer*, just in case the male had misled her and the guru's smiling face turned out to be a fantasy of her tired brain.

Eighty per cent of the illegal passport trade between French citizens in Asia takes place, not as might be supposed in the old French colonies of Indochina and the countries surrounding them, but in New Delhi's Connaught Place. The black market in travel documents is not limited to the French. It is a going business for papers from most Western countries, whose Consular Corps discreetly watch illegal passports being flung all over the subcontinent like confetti at a masked ball. The elegant diplomats find less and less of their working day is spent in exchanging *bon mots* and *bonbons* with one another, and more and more of it goes in protecting themselves from this constantly expanding underworld.

One consul had smiled grimly at me across the four feet that separated us. He was a Frenchman, a man of no-man's-land, a monument to the changing times. He had joined the diplomatic service to live a life as formal and as tightly ordered as the Court at Versailles, and found himself reduced to creating enough physical space to avoid contracting the diseases and the body lice of his fellow citizens.

"It is an evil world today, Madame. Last week a young couple came in here. They were sitting exactly where you sit now. They were very excited. They had lost their passports. I gave them new *laissez-passer*. But they didn't go away. Instead they walked up to my desk and laid a bundle wrapped in rags in front of me."

"What is it?" I asked them. "It is our son," they replied. "Is he sick?" I asked. "No, monsieur. He is dead."

Then they said to me, "Bury him."

"I have no funds to bury babies, Madame. I cannot just demand from a foreign government space in a graveyard for an unknown body."

"Then bury him in France," they told me.

"He is a citizen of France!" "They had no proof that they were the parents. But I felt sorry for them in their bereavement, so I took some money from my own pocket and told them to go to the cremation grounds."

"Have the body burnt," I advised. "This money will pay for it."

"They were very happy. They took the bundle, their new papers, my money, and they went away shouting 'Vive La France!' Even to the Indian watchman."

"The next morning I received a telephone call from the crematorium. They asked, 'Are you the French Consul?'"

"Oui, Yes, it is me," I said. "They said to me, 'There is the body of a dead child lying in front of our gates. What shall we do with it?'"

"I was very busy. I could not understand why they were calling me."

"Why don't you burn it?" "You are a crematorium. Dead bodies are your business, not the business of the Embassy of France!"

"Not this one," they told me. "There is a paper pinned to the body, addressed to you."

"Addressed to me?"

"Yes, it says, A Present for the French Consul."

"What can I say, Madame? What kind of world do we live in? Where parents sell the dead bodies of their own children for cash!"

And what will they do with the cash? Buy drugs. Some to use, some to sell to other unfortunate souls like themselves. "We have told your government, all of us from the Embassies, so many times. Your government shrugs. The officials say these are our citizens, we must look after them."

The passport rackets finance the drug trade, and it's the drugs that earn the big bucks, and everyone knows that where there are big bucks there's a lot of action. When the French girl arrived in India all those years ago she regularly smoked hashish and opium.

"Now I only use drugs for religious purposes, to help me go into a trance. In fact, I was in that kind of spiritual trance in a temple in Benares when a beggar told me of a Teacher in a jungle outside Delhi who was waiting for a white woman who would be the greatest of his followers. I knew this was a message. The Teacher had tested my endurance long enough. I left the temple immediately and went to Delhi."

The French girl interrupted her narrative to acknowledge the presence of a new arrival. A well-dressed European who looked to be in his late sixties was waving at her from across the stream.

"Venez ici," "Venez ici," shouted the girl. The man stared dubiously at the puddles near his shining black shoes, and adjusted the cameras slung over his shoulders. The girl counselled him to jump. She

called for her child. The child appeared from behind a tree, the man successfully landed on dry ground, and the Indian tied up his pouches and stowed the bundle behind his back.

The newcomer was introduced as a stockbroker who had come to take photographs of the French girl and her child, for the girl's mother back in France.

"My mother wants pictures of me now. You know why? The Mother of Pondicherry is dead, and there are people who think I should take her place. She was French. I am French. A few talent scouts from the ashram have been to see me. After all, Auroville is more than an ashram. It is a whole city, with money from governments and the United Nations and so many donations. To continue they must find a successor. The French press is very excited, journalists have visited me. And my mother wants photographs of me now. She thinks I will be famous. Like a Pope!"

As she spoke, the French girl dressed her child in a red silk skirt. Then she sat the child on her lap and began combing the child's hair with a fine-toothed delousing comb. The stockbroker was clicking away with his camera, shooting roll upon roll of candid exposure. Suddenly, the child tagged at her mother's sarong and succeeded in freeing one withered breast. The stockbroker looked alarmed and put down his camera. The French girl continued to inspect her child's head for lice, the child with a full set of milk teeth continued to suck at her mother's milkless breast, unperturbed by their audience.

The stockbroker put his camera back into their case, bowed stiffly to the French girl, and left. The girl laughed. "I am not going to be the new Frenchwoman to take over the Auroville empire in Pondicherry. I have been here nearly seven years. When my time is up, my daughter and I will move on. I may give up the religious life. Move to Benares. I believe Benares is amant now."

The Indian coughed discreetly.

Benares is daily getting more amant.

It is the city on the banks of the River Ganges at its most holy confluence. The heart of Hindu India, with the paradoxes laid out in perfect sequence. First the river: mortality and immortality. Then the temples: piety and profanity. Then the bazaars: commerce and charity. Then the beggars: poverty and sanctity.

"Look, honey," said the troubleshooter at the American Embassy. "I can't see you this afternoon. One of our guys

pulled out a gun and shot another one of our guys dead in a temple just outside Benares. Probably fighting over dope, but I gotta get up there and sort it out. Let's get together when I get back, okay?"

It was from this city that the brocade route originated, its craftsmen carrying to Nepal, Tibet and China not just their knowledge of silks and weaving, but also the secrets of Hindu learning, until the largest expanse of lead and people on earth had heard and accepted the concepts of reincarnation and Moksha, release.

"You don't really want to see what's become of Benares in the last few years," said the German photographer.

"Everywhere now you find morphine. Bones on the streets. People dying on the streets."

It is the city where widows go from the conservative Hindu enclaves which look upon marrying a widow as an obscenity matched only by necrophilia. In their white saris and with their heads the widows can be seen as every temple, begging alms from the pilgrims who come to offer prayers for their ancestors.

Other mendicants are sadhus down from the mountains, naked and carrying the iron trident to show their allegiance to the god Shiva. Some beggars are practitioners of Tantra, searching to realize the non-existence of good and evil, breaking the taboos of caste by begging from those of any caste. Others are hippies, making survival the easy way.

The original hippies were more than beggars. They were pathfinders who discovered the burning ghats. India is probably the only country in the world that allows the tourist to treat death as a spectator sport, and nowadays tourists increasingly look to India for the experience. Trips to the unknown are monogrammed by the sensation not the photograph, and few places are more sensational than the burning ghats at Benares—the place where all devout Hindus hope to be cremated.

Inevitably those who perform the cremations have a stranglehold on the devout and some use their power mercilessly. Priests bargain with bereaved families over the price and the quantity of sandalwood and clarified butter to be used for the funeral pyre, to help ignorance and salvation. Battles are fought over the price of each verse of the holy Sanskrit scriptures to be recited while the body burns. And when the negotiations finally draw to a halt, and the body is successfully burning, and the head of the corpse has exploded, then further bargaining begins. The price of the guard who will watch over the body until it is reduced to ashes, a necessary expense because among the large number of sadhus at the ghats there might be some who are trying to rise above con-

ventional morals by eating human flesh.

The hippies found Benares more than just a good place to beg. It was also the best place to get stoned and freak out on eternity. In the early days, the hippies used the simple joint to induce philosophy. They spent many pleasant hours at the burning ghats, watching the smoke from the funeral pyres unite with the smoke from their joints, the fumes spiralling upwards to the vultures circling in the hot Indian sky.

Metaphors of living and dying in India.

Lately these visions of death and its marketplace have not been sufficient to entertain the growing number of voyeurs. People are demanding something more to heighten their experience of experience.

"It's the needle. The needle has replaced the pipe. There's enough happening in Benares without that. Why don't you people do something?" asked the Dutch sociologist shortly before he began casting the I Ching.

"Don't you know once that starts it is carried on by its own momentum?"

The sociologist has a case. The service industries for the sophisticated tourist are being run by increasingly sophisticated professionals. Some have come to India because their lucrative trade in Indochina was another casualty of the Vietnam war. Others have come because it is getting harder to get raw opium out of Turkey and the Golden Triangle, whereas the Indian subcontinent grows more opium than any country in the world.

In fact there was a time when the trade of the entire Western World rested on the fragile back of the white poppy of India, the seeds brought from Asia Minor by the Moghul emperors, the fields exploited by British merchants.

The British tried open the gates of Imperial China with tea and then debauched the Empire with Indian opium in order to keep those gates open, first by smuggling and then by gunboats, leading to the thirty odd years of conflict which the embittered and addicted Chinese were to call The Opium Wars.

The Americans, finding the opium they brought from Turkey too inferior for the tastes of the addicts of China, turned to the opium fields of India for the invaluable poppy that would guarantee the Chinese silver that America needed to keep alive the boast of "the silver dollar."

The British East India Company used opium to spread decay among the spinning wheel and handloom craftsmen of India, so that Indian weavers would tend the poppy fields not their looms, and be forced to buy the manufactured textiles of the steam-powered Lancashire mills.

The Dutch used opium to break down the resistance of the Indonesians to the semi-slavery of the Dutch East India Company's profit-making plantations.

The French traded in opium. The Portuguese traded in opium.

And the British merchant houses who had made their fortunes in the East did not ignore their own. By the nineteenth century, opium was being taken in Great Britain, not just by avant-garde writers, but by the vast majority of those North of England workers who kept the wheels of the Industrial Revolution turning, and for whom it was a cheaper and more available consciousness killer than beer or gin.

Two hundred years later, through the narrow route of history and philosophy, the dealers are back in India. Without the moral and military backing of their governments, it is true, but with the gains of the Industrial Revolution, which have replaced the handmade pipe with the factory-turned hypodermic.

Despite the illegality, the drug traders of Benares seem to feel little need for secrecy. They have scouts operating more or less openly in the hotels of the big cities and the tourist traps around the country. In less than a decade Benares has become a haven for chemists and dealers who have drifted into the city from all over the world. Most of the professionals are still non-Indian, although it is only a question of how long. It is unlikely that Indians will continue to be content by only providing the floorshow, with dead and their bereaved.

Meanwhile, Delhi is hosting yet another international conference this time on the problems and solutions to international drug-peddling.

India prides herself on having the best record on controlling illegal drug traffic in the world. While the bureaucrats congratulate themselves on the efficacy of their controls, the drug traffic grows and grows, and Benares looks set to replace Bangkok as Needle City, Asia.

"But I'm not scared of the police," she French girl had said. "It's because of them that I'm in India today."

Whatever the origins of her visit, India has given the French girl a number of attractive options.

If she holds to her plan to revisit Benares, she will find a larger variety of spiritual stimulants available to her than was available seven years ago. When she wishes to go into a religious trance at the burning ghats, she will find it easier to do so.

Systems, efficiency, and time and motion studies have been put into operation while she was under her thorn tree.

The Hindu element remains constant. The corpse carriers continue to bring their cargoes of dead bodies for the funeral pyres, and say their chant.

Ram Nam Sat Hai, Ram Nam Sat Hai

The Name of God is Truth.

But the name-industry has improved. Now the dope, hard and soft, is available from houseboats. The houseboats have been moored on the holy river in the immediate vicinity of the burning ghats. Thus customers are provided with easy and constant access to both death and delirium.

Or the French girl could change her mind and reconsider the possibility of becoming a religious leader. There's little chance that she would be acceptable to the Auroville ashram, but for her it's a reasonable gamble. If the ashram did vote her their girl, she would have sole control over the hearts and fortunes of a large and wealthy religious community.

Or she could go to her embassy and apply for a new passport, which she could then sell to raise enough money to set up as a small drugs entrepreneur, financing smuggling operations either West to Amsterdam and Marseilles, in finished goods, or else sending raw opium East to Hong Kong to be refined and adulterated into Chinese heroin, which the Chinese will resell to the West.

Interpol may yet catch up with her, though the odds are against it. If they do, immediately closing all her options in one fell swoop, then depending on which culture she's currently coming from.

There's either karma or it's showbiz.

This extract is taken from Karma Cola by Gita Mehta, which will be published on February 28 by Jonathan Cape at £4.95.











## PERSONAL CHOICE

Robert Stephens and Geraldine James in Michael Sullivan's play *Hester for Example* (BBC 2, 10.30)

Free to Choose (BBC 2, 8.25), is a bit of a gamble: no two ways about it. Who wants economics and politics on a night given over to froth, fun and fantasy? The truth is that there are some people who do not switch off their brains on Saturday night, and who care deeply about why, at a time when the West should be enjoying unprecedented prosperity, there are so many unemployed, inflation, urban decay, slumping educational standards. Tonight's film is a scene-setter in this series of six programmes, all fronted by Professor Milton Friedman, leading exponent of monetarist policies. From Washington, will chair studio discussions between Professor Friedman and leading politicians, industrialists and economists.

Any documentary about our solar system that characterizes Venus, with its battery-aided rainfall, as the Ugly Duckling of the solar system, Mars as Paradise Lost and the Jupiter moon Io as a giant pizza in the sky, instantly engages my attention because the rich imagery takes me straight to the heart of a subject I have vaguely comprehended. *Worlds Apart* (BBC 2, 6.45) is the work of the BBC's Open University Production Centre, and I found its personality profiles of the planets spellbinding and its predictions about future space exploration mind-boggling.

New does not necessarily mean successful, but let us give London Weekend Television credit for at least having kicked over the traces with their new series *Doctors and Nurses* (parly networked, 8.15). These are hospital stories in which all the patients are played by adults and all the hospital staff by children. Exactly why this turnabout takes place, I have no idea. True, many children play at doctors and nurses—or used to—but I dare not imagine that this has anything to do with what we shall see tonight. Another interesting departure: each episode is only 15 minutes long.

The letters page in the current issue of *The Listener* contains much food for thought from a listener to, one of the judges of, and a competitor in, the recent Radio 2 short story competition. Not happy letters, any of them. Tonight (Radio 3, 8.20), the story that won the second prize—Shena Mackay's *The Stained Glass Door*—will be read. Will it, I wonder, appease the competition's critics? ... The Saturday Night Theatre play (Radio 4, 8.30), Peter Whalley's *The Liverpool Match*, is about what happens when fourth division Gillingham Rovers are drawn against first division Liverpool. If you spot any technical blemishes, blame Barnsley Football Club because they helped with the research.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

7.40 am Open University. Close-down at 8.30.  
9.05 Gymnast: The Beam, Discussed by David Vine, Nik Stuart (r).  
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Includes live broadcast from Broadcasting House to see Peter Powell presenting his Radio One show. Guest appearances by Julie Whitfield and Rocky Sharpe and the Replays. 12.12 pm Weather.  
12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.15 Football Focus (Bob Wilson); Winter Olympic Games from Lake Placid, at 12.50, 1.25, 1.55, 4.25 and 5.05, including prize figures; Racing from Cheltenham at 1.05, 1.35 and 2.05; International Rugby Union, England v Wales, from Twickenham at 2.25 and Scotland v France at 4.00. Final score at 4.30.  
5.30 The Pink Panther Show: Cartoons.  
5.40 News with Richard Whitmore, 5.50 Sport.  
5.55 Wonder Woman: The case of the stolen historical documents.  
6.40 Jim'll Fix It: Jimmy Savile makes youngsters' dreams come true, including the girl who becomes a fairy and two sisters who hold their own press conference.  
7.15 Film: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954). Victor Mature, the sul, superbly choreographed musical about a bride (Jane Powell) who shares her husband's (Howard Keel) home with his six brothers-in-law. (See Personal Choice).

## BBC 2

7.40 am Open University. Until 3.10.  
3.10 Film: His Excellency (1951). An Ealing film (not that you'd notice it). Eric Portier is the trade union leader who becomes governor of a colony in the Mediterranean. Also starring Cecil Parker, Helen Cherry, Susan Stephen.  
4.30 Today: Musical show for youngsters, with Derek Griffiths as MC.  
5.00 Horizon: A Sporting Chance. How far should science be used as a tool in sport? Repeat of last Monday's programme.  
5.50 Mr Smith's Indoor Garden: Geoffrey Smith among the

cinerarias, calceolarias and hydrangeas.  
6.15 Open Door: A platform for the Campaign for Comprehensive Education.  
6.45 Worlds Apart: Solar system odyssey (see Personal Choice).  
7.35 News and sport, 7.50 Top Table: International Table Tennis, from Cullinstown. In the final, Milan Orlovski plays Tibor Klampar, a man he has never beaten.  
8.15 Free to Choose: First of six films in which Professor Milton Friedman, leading exponent of monetarist policies, examines the economic ill of the West (see Personal Choice).  
8.55 Film: Angels with Dirty Faces (1938). Classic gangster film about two slum boys—James

more.  
8.55 Match of the Day and Winter Olympics: Action from three of today's games in the fifth round of the FA Cup, and back to Lake Placid for coverage of the two-man bobsled and the men's and women's individual toboggan events.  
11.15 Parkinson: The guests are Joan Collins, Leslie Thomas and Joan Perrow (former Dr Who and Robert Sengstacke Gumbs), Ends at approximately 12.15 am.

## Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 8.40 am News, 8.45 News, 9.05 News, 9.15 News, 9.25 News, 9.35 News, 9.45 News, 9.55 News, 10.05 News, 10.15 News, 10.25 News, 10.35 News, 10.45 News, 10.55 News, 11.05 News, 11.15 News, 11.25 News, 11.35 News, 11.45 News, 11.55 News, 12.05 News, 12.15 News, 12.25 News, 12.35 News, 12.45 News, 12.55 News, 1.05 News, 1.15 News, 1.25 News, 1.35 News, 1.45 News, 1.55 News, 2.05 News, 2.15 News, 2.25 News, 2.35 News, 2.45 News, 2.55 News, 3.05 News, 3.15 News, 3.25 News, 3.35 News, 3.45 News, 3.55 News, 4.05 News, 4.15 News, 4.25 News, 4.35 News, 4.45 News, 4.55 News, 5.05 News, 5.15 News, 5.25 News, 5.35 News, 5.45 News, 5.55 News, 6.05 News, 6.15 News, 6.25 News, 6.35 News, 6.45 News, 6.55 News, 7.05 News, 7.15 News, 7.25 News, 7.35 News, 7.45 News, 7.55 News, 8.05 News, 8.15 News, 8.25 News, 8.35 News, 8.45 News, 8.55 News, 9.05 News, 9.15 News, 9.25 News, 9.35 News, 9.45 News, 9.55 News, 10.05 News, 10.15 News, 10.25 News, 10.35 News, 10.45 News, 10.55 News, 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## Travel

### Palm Springs five to a pool

It occurs to me that Palm Springs in California has handed down the eleventh Commandment: *Thou shalt not cast a shadow over thy neighbour's swimming pool.* This impious thought came as I sampled a jacuzzi and if you are wondering if a jacuzzi is a Neapolitan dish, you would be entirely wrong.

Americans love toys and this is their latest. To be jacuzzi-less does absolutely nothing for your socio-economic status. Particularly in Palm Springs, where status is as important as face is to orientals, I have my own views on jacuzzis, suspecting that they encourage contemptible behaviour.

A jacuzzi is a man-made hole in the ground, usually circular—although I have seen them elliptical, indeed it is whispered that Liberace's is piano-shaped—situated more or less anywhere at all. Frequently your bathing pool and cocktail bar. They are filled with hot water which foams, bubbles and gurgles as you sit in it with a gathering of more intimate acquaintances chatting of this and that, a sort of laundrette for people. In essence, that's about all there is to it; except that the hotter the water, the headier the alcohol. You know how it is.

Not that it would be polite to express puritan reservations to your host: it would only cause offence: a closed mouth gathers no foot, is the best policy in Palm Springs. Keep a low profile, to coin a phrase—like the very architecture of this whole Coachella Valley, I was being perfectly serious: there are no buildings high enough to place a neighbour's pool in shadow. Houses, colonies, even country clubs are moulded into the landscape, gracefully, unobtrusively, in the way in which only the very rich can manage. And Palm Springs is a rich preserve.

If you want to see for yourself, British Airways flies as far as Los Angeles, from where you can motor the remaining 105 miles to the foot of Mount San Jacinto. It is a desert climate, hot and dry, with 350 sunny days a year. It is a perfect climate, ideal for sustaining inhabitants to a great age; death does not visit Palm Springs as it does other places—the elderly merely dry out, as leaves pressed between pages

of a book, to wither and eventually blow away. It is bewildering this paucity of cemeteries, until you understand the reason.

Palm Springs wears a patrician air, a touch of class: there is no brash display of advertising as in other American towns, no parking meters, de-filée kerbsides, there are no street lights—illumination is trapped to cascade from the fronds of palm trees lining the streets. There is nothing so plebeian as a motel. Palm Springs motels are known as "inns". Palm Canyon Drive, the desert Bond Street, shows an elegant facade of art galleries, boutiques, fashion houses that make New York's Fifth Avenue seem almost dowdy by comparison. More Rodis-Royces purr along Palm Canyon Drive than in Mayfair.

In fact Mr Carlos de Abreu of H. Rauvel, jeweller of 275 Palm Canyon Drive retails a popular line of solid gold Rodis-Royce keys at \$250—the trick being that you press the key casually into your wife's hand with the throw-away line: "The rest of your birthday present is in the drive, honey."

Palm Springs was "discovered" in 1863 by Big Bill Bradshaw in his search for a railway link between the Mississippi River and the Pacific, a discovery which made the Calhulla Indians, who owned the land, the richest tribe in the United States. In the 1920s and 30s another tribe, the Hollywood tribe, came to Palm Springs to escape pressure of the film studios. Bing Crosby came, so too Ginger Rogers, the Marx brothers, Bob Hope.

Bob Hope is still there; so is Frank Sinatra, Kirk Douglas, William Holden, Steve McQueen, Liberace, Walter Annenberg, once American Ambassador to Britain, is there; ex-president Gerald Ford is there. In case you are interested, over 7,000 swimming pools are there too, along with 38 golf courses, heaven knows what proliferation of tennis courts... all to serve a population of about 35,000.

To visit Palm Springs is one thing, to take up residence another—especially for the socially ambitious. There is the question of accommodation: \$900,000 should acquire modest splendour, with "his and her" tennis courts. Next comes the form of standing election to

the right club—or two; you could get away with one, but it would mark you as a penny-pincher. Thunderbird and El Dorado Country Clubs have a certain standing in the community and the entrance fee to either would set you back \$25,000, to say nothing of an annual subscription of \$2,000.

Your wife would need to dress according to desert fashion—which would involve her obligatory attendance at Beau James's salon on El Paseo Drive. Each Friday Beau shows his latest creations, followed by an informal champagne lunch at which your neighbour might be Betty Ford. My neighbour turned out to be a splendid lady who told me she was 83 and wore so many diamonds that she sparkled like an oil-rig at night. She simply adored Palm Springs and everyone in it, she said, and didn't I adore it too? Well, I said, didn't you have to be awfully rich to get the best out of it. Rich, she replied, I'm not in the slightest bit rich... do you know my daughter Elizabeth? It was then that I noticed her place card: Mrs Sarah Taylor. And a very, very nice woman too.

Beau himself smiled his serene walk-in smile and told me about the "extravaganza" he had held for charity at the Riviera-Hilton near by. Apparently he flew on to the cat-walk like Peter Pan, suspended on invisible wires, a glittering vision of black sequinned incandescence, complete with flapping wings. He said he wished I could have been there, and I said I was sorry to miss it too.

By now you would be ready to make your debut in Palm Springs society; and no better way than to get yourself invited to the annual "Night of Glamour", a fund raising event organized by the United Jewish Appeal, deeply committed to Zionism. One such evening was held by Danny and Natalie Schwartz. Natalie, a blonde Mirage house, right next door to their best friend Frank Sinatra. They invited 450 guests, each couple contributing \$2,500 a ticket which included cocktails, buffet dinner and dancing. It was a great success, the evening raised one million dollars.

It is all very well, but the melancholy fact remains that there are still a few ordinary



La Mancha country club, Palm Springs.

poor mortals like me around in Palm Springs. I mean, someone has to polish the Rolls and fill the Jacuzzi. There are even some young people and you will see them in the evening at Zeld's next door to El Scott's restaurant... or eating burritos and enchiladas, as tasty as you could order in Mexico City, at Las Casuelas. Which is a less expensive way of passing time than frequenting Mr Sinatra's favourite haunts, Lord Fletcher Inn and Wally's Desert Turtle... "ole blue eyes" dines out a lot, accompanied by a brace of

bodyguards whose faces could shatter glass.

It is all a matter of perspective. The best way to sort out Palm Springs is to start at the top—by taking a tram ride. The aerial tramway lifts you from thorny cactus and warm desert sands to the 8,516 foot peak of San Jacinto, from where you have a view as far as the Salton Sea, 45 miles away. The climb takes you through various geological formations: metamorphic rock, granite, quartz; there are cottonwoods, black maple,

mahogany, manzanita ribbon-wood, juniper, apricot and white fir; fauna includes mountain lion, fox, bobcat and deer.

Most of all does the summit cut Palm Springs down to size, a sign of the mountain station helpfully indicating the direction of London, 7,500 miles away; to which you should add a further 80 miles to Needham Market, where I come from. It seems even farther, because Palm Springs is about as remote from reality

as Jupiter and Mars. It is a marsh-mallow town, a gorgeous confection of icing sugar, crowned with candles; and there is the slightly chilling thought that one day the candles will be snuffed out.

Which in many ways would be a pity, for the world needs a few idiot spots or we'd have nothing to complain about. Apart from which, it is right and proper that we should spend our money as it pleases us; it is one of the first precepts of capitalism—the alternative has its imperfections too.

So I say, go West, as far as Palm Springs; go before it is too late, because if the Reds don't get there, the desert winds will.

Travel Notes: British Airways First Class return to Los Angeles £1,319; Low Season Super-Apex £282. One-way limousine service from the airport to Palm Springs \$18. Double room at Ingleside Inn \$75-\$135 a day—ask for the manageress, Babs Rosen, who comes from Devonshire.

Michael Watkins

## Drink

### Simple but individual

"Vin de pays" is not just a casual expression these days. In 1964 the French government restricted its use, as far as wine labelling was concerned, to wines from specified regions, complying with certain quality controls; there was, however, a certain confusion between these vins du pays and the vins d'appellation simple (AOS) so that, in 1973, a new decree about vins du pays was published. AOS wines now do not exist at a category and, in September 1979, a decree established the significance of vins du pays.

There are now 75 categories of vins du pays, applying to wines from the north of France to the south and Corsica. The category is below that of VDQS and above that of vin de table, although, somewhat confusingly, certain vins du pays labels also bear the phrase "vin de table". To attain the category, wines must be made from approved vines; the alcoholic content, analysis and yield per hectare is strictly controlled (for vins du pays less can be produced per hectare than for vins de table), the area of production and method of making are defined and committees sub-

ject the wines to tasting, the government body in charge, Onivit, being composed of growers, merchants and wine brokers.

What seems the most important aspect of the vin de table category for the ordinary wine drinker, is that the wines are expected to be typical of the regions from which they come. They are intended to provide good everyday drinking, with individuality according both to their vineyard and the grower or firm whose label goes on the bottle. Enormous quantities are made in the Hérault, Gard, Aude and in Corsica, wines which, until recently, might be used for the blend of branded wines, for vermouth and wine-based aperitifs. Today, modern technology and supervision by certain huge châteaux, such as that of Chateauvint, the French brand leader for vins du pays and possibly the fifth largest wine concern in France, make it possible for these wines to offer interest and modest quality in their own right and not remain simply as little local wines that cannot be sampled in a number of vins du pays has given me the

opinion that good ones can be more interesting and better value than many of the VDQS wines now on export lists; many of these seem to be of an insipid character, lacking more than adequate drinking quality and often so commercially smoothed into acceptability for overseas markets that their regional characteristics have been lost.

White, pink and red vins du pays are made and the range is hoped, will be dealt with in the future. Of the whites, it is surprising that some are so very good. In a hot vineyard, white wines tend to lack acidity and freshness, in a northern and cooler region, they are more likely to be acidic. In the AC category risk being mean, shrill and harsh. What was marked, in a comparative tasting, was that all the white wines and the rosé sampled benefited greatly by the bottle, already light and bright, being open for up to half an hour the bouquet of the wine, very slight with some at the outset, then developed agreeably. So it is worth given these inexpensive whites a chance to breathe and show what they can do.

Chateauvint's white Côtes du Tern, very light in colour, has

an immediate fragrance and freshness, is pleasantly crisp in flavour and many of those who sampled it would gladly have drunk it for an aperitif, or with fish or cold white meat in preference to a more expensive but less instantly pleasing wine (£1.75 from Laytons, 27 Midland Rd, NW1). The odd minerally after-taste that tends to be present in wines from volcanic soils, such as the Tern, is not so evident in the Tern white of Pierre Picard, as this is truly described as "medium dry", but it too has a fresh smell, leading to a fruity, almost sweet flavour that reminded me of Bramley apple being baked; this rounded wine would accompany cold cuts or chicken and could also be useful as an aperitif (£1.89 from Peter Dominic branches). A white Gard wine, Domaine de l'Espiguet, is lighter, crisper, straighter and more definite dryer (£1.89 also from Peter Dominic).

The Domaines Viticoles des Salins du Midi are another large concern who have transformed the previously barren sandy shores of the Mediterranean and their Littel wines are invariably clean, light and very drinkable. Perhaps in the

chilly humidity of the United Kingdom the whites may seem to lack bouquet, so do not over-chill them and do open them ahead of drinking time. Their category is Sables du Goffe du Lion. The Villeroie Dry, blanc de blanc, is universally full, fresh, a generally useful light white (£1.95 from the Malmesbury Wine Club, St Pancras Chambers, Euston Rd, NW1). The Littel Gris de Gris, a very pale bronze pink wine, is an extremely good rosé, full-bodied and quite lengthy (£2.15 from Rodney Benson, Nantwich, Cheshire).

Three real surprises, offering quality far in advance of price, start with Chateauvint's wine from the Cher region, charmingly categorised as Jardin de la France; this wine truly does have a flowery bouquet, is immediately appealing, opening up to a balanced fullness and charmingly crisp after-taste—it is ready dry but even people who do not usually like a dry white wine have enjoyed this one, even as an aperitif (£2.10 from Laytons). The "zing" of a northern wine is hard to find in the south, but a wine made by Cazes, previously mentioned as an adroit producer, achieves

it. From the Pyrénées-Orientales, this is a vin du pays Côte Catalane, cépage Muscat, and it proclaims this "grapey" grape fully; assertive, very aromatic, yet clean finishing, a wine to partner a rich sauce or, if wished, by way of aperitif (£2.36 from Robert James, 79 Aslett St, S.W.18). The Var white, Cuvée des Bruyères, Bandol, is from the property of the eminent gynaecologist, Dr Dray, whose pink and red wines have achieved popularity here. This must have some time to breathe because its bouquet is reluctant, but it opens out to a "heather honey" enticing smell which, as someone who knew nothing about it remarked, makes it a wine to delve into and try to understand; fullish in body, with a considerable after-taste, it is a bigish wine, suitable for a special occasion or rich fat fish and herby chicken dishes. Interestingly, a lay tasting panel sampling this and the Jardin de France white were divided as to which was the most popular—both were much praised. (Cuvée des Bruyères costs £2.75 from O. W. Loeb, 15 Jermyn St, S.W.1.)

Pamela Vandyke Price

## Bridge

### Beginners' stuff

One of the leading American teachers wrote in the Foreword to an elementary treatise entitled *How to win at Contract Bridge in ten easy lessons*: science; it is a game. If this assertion was correct in 1960 it is untrue today. Bidding has become so precise a science among experts that partners practise together and are no longer solo performers. Although I poured scorn on their arithmetical approach and the artificial meanings assigned to little-used bids, I was unable to hold back the tide of systematic approach.

The methods which I expounded in *Money Bridge* were devised in order that the reader could develop his powers of deduction and intuition which were handicapped by artificialities. After its publication I invited comments from leading teachers who almost unanimously accepted my theories but rejected them for practical purposes. Charles Solomon, who was later President of the American Bridge Association, asked me how I could convey the value of a hand to a large class of pupils if they learned its strength in one situation only to reject it in another. It was my proud boast that I followed only three elementary rules from which I rarely departed: 1 Avoid an approach in bid without three tricks in defence; 2 Respond with the full value of your hand unless you are probing for a contract; 3 Bid to protect any weakness,

and avoid conventional aids. I was surprised to find a teacher who shared my views in one respect, that pupils must learn the play of their hands in attack and defence before they can put the correct value upon them. He provided the groups in his classes with duplicated hands of which they had to make the most before he explained how the best contract was reached. I must admit to having failed dismally in my bidding, but not in my play, of the following deal.

North South game; dealer North:

♠ A 10 9 3  
♥ A K 10 4 2  
♦ J 7 5  
♣ A J 9 3

♠ J 5 2  
♥ 7 3  
♦ Q 9  
♣ K 8 7

♠ K 8  
♥ Q 3 6  
♦ J 8 9  
♣ A K 10 4 2

My idea of the most satisfactory bidding was as follows:

North	South	East	West
1 Diamond	No	3 No trumps	No

This outraged American approach principles, because, by jumping into game, I excluded the possibility of a slam. The play which I recommended met with approval.

East wins the opening lead with the ♠ A and clears his partner's suit. Declarer has only one safe way to make the

most of his cards. He begins by discarding a small club on the ♠ K and cashes the ♠ A K. When the ♠ Q does not fall he still has two remaining strings to his bow. He next plays the ♠ A K and when the ♠ Q comes down declarer takes five clubs, two diamonds, one spade and one heart. If the long cards do not mature in either minor suit, he can fall back upon the heart finesse, and by playing diamonds before clubs he is in the right hand.

The purpose of this lesson was to teach a beginner to avoid taking a finesse until it became essential. As for the bidding, the instructor considered that my jump to game was insufficiently helpful to the partnership, although I possessed more than the necessary quota of points for a game contract. He suggested that routine approach bidding provided more scope, and it might take the following form:

This contract does not appear to be more certain than Three No trumps, but it was in accord with the approach system. Perhaps I should have had the last word by pointing out that for every occasion that game can be made twenty times in No trumps.

The old methods of teaching rubber bridge have not changed greatly in half a century; but twenty years ago the Italians

with their regular victories in world championships introduced new principles which are now accepted in match play. They bid short before long suits; they responded to a strong opening bid by steps which show controls and have no more to do with the suit named than the Blackwood Five Spades has to do with the spade suit. The principle behind the control showing response (a king=one control, an ace=two controls) is that the responder to an artificial opening bid can show by one response whether he holds a potential game or slam hand and, at the same time, gives no information to the other side at this stage. It is now impossible to take part successfully in tournaments without having a number of artificial bids at your finger tips, and the most difficult to cope with are special asking bids.

How, then, is a beginner to learn the essentials of sound bidding unless he adopts an artificial system which will blunt his intuition and deduction. Only I suggest, by learning from his own mistakes and those made by experts, above all by remembering that he need not contest every bid by his opponents merely because he has a good hand and fears that they may deprive him of a score.

Whatever system you employ, one of the most important rules to keep in the forefront of your mind is that a response on a minimum must always be at the lowest level.

North South game and 30; East-West zero. Dealer North:

♠ A Q 10 9  
♥ A K 4 3 2  
♦ 10 5 5  
♣ 3

♠ K 8 5  
♥ 7 5  
♦ K 8 4 2  
♣ A 6 5

♠ J 5 2  
♥ Q 3  
♦ A 3  
♣ Q J 9 7 4 2

North: 1 Heart (for 1 Spade)  
East: No  
South: No  
West: 1 No trump No

South responds One No trump to keep the auction alive and avoids the response of Two Clubs which might produce an expensive contract of Two No trumps. After an opening by North on a minimum number of points (three defensive tricks) South need not force his partner into a game, merely because he has eight points.

Edward Mayer

Chess is on page 14

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Fred Emery

## Not so much when but how?

Has a great divide opened in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet? Was the past week a turning point for the foot-soldiers of more careful ministers who will now begin exercising a restraining influence on headlong policy? Or will, on the contrary, the vanguard of economists around the leader redouble their cry for pursuit of the monetary grail?

The questions persist at Westminster after turbulent encounters left conflicting claims. Indeed, clear-cut answers will probably be discerned only by historians. But one way to catch the mood will be to watch for the Thatcher side counter-attack.

The Prime Minister herself has been persuaded that the time has come for her return to the television screen for the sort of studio interview she so dislikes, according to a Cabinet colleague. In these first nine months of office she has kept her broadcasting and walkabout profile deliberately low—except for the brave and brilliant ventures into Uster.

The reclusiveness can be said to have served her well until November. But since then the policies of getting her policies across have disintegrated: partly because it is not easy selling discomfort but, partly, too, because not enough explaining has been done, not enough consideration given to winning over dissenters in her own party, let alone in parts of the country that never voted for her.

Now that the steel strike has

become a catalyst for various elements of disaffection with government action she will be intent to demonstrate that she, at least, is not faltering.

That same message—call it determination or defiance—is coming from her close colleagues. Some of them may be disappointed that they failed to carry the argument against Mr James Prior for tougher action on trades union legal immunities. But he and they know that this was only one battle, not the war.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has been up front with Mrs Thatcher on this issue, certainly sees the great argument over union reform as only beginning. As confirmed in Mrs Thatcher's eagerness to press ahead with reducing supplementary benefit to strikers' families, the Government is out to prove that it will not shrink from tackling the central challenge of trade union responsibility.

The Chancellor believes that imposing that responsibility by law, as in the United States, Sweden or West Germany, is inextricably linked with the way to recovery for the British economy.

Sir Geoffrey is unrepentant; he reckons he knows the legal complexities as well as anyone. And against Mr Prior's reputed dovishness, he scorns the idea he can be hawkeyish to seek to punish unions—through their funds or property—rather than

individuals for defiance of new law. He could be depicted as relishing the ministerial confrontations that are to come on all this.

But what he will not accept are depictions of himself in a Cabinet "at bay", facing the supposed triple crisis of steel, expenditure cuts, and union law. With a Budget six weeks away his more pressing concern remains the fight, fight, fight again against inflation.

He and his colleagues insist they are on course; their nerve is intact; and they will not be deflected. The new round of public expenditure cuts exacted by Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury will show, it is said, that he got the bulk of what he wanted. The borrowing requirement must be held. And the fact that the money supply keeps bursting out of its controls makes it all the more imperative to turn the screws, not relax them.

While the Government will try in the Budget to retain part of its "enterprise package", if not in income tax cuts, it is emphasized that nobody ever said it was going to be comfortable. Sir Geoffrey, doubtless echoing Mrs Thatcher, is impatient with Conservatives who bridle at paying for school meals and transport, and now campaign against the proposed changes of paying social benefits through post offices. The whole British ethos of inertia has got

to be changed; this was what they were elected to do.

Furthermore, what alternatives are on offer? This, all along, has been the defensive retort to the worriers and doubters in Cabinet, and outside. They do not mean the Benjite option, which they dismiss as "East European", but are asking what their critics would do.

At this point dissenters who may make up the majority in the Cabinet are stumped for an answer, unless they are keeping it to themselves. Their age-old problem is that they agree mostly about ends; it's the means that worry them.

Sir Ian Gilmour would perhaps admit as much. His eloquent plea for a mixed economy and the state's role in cementing the community, which electrified many Conservative moderates, really argues going more slowly and carefully rather than suggesting alternatives. It was categorical in what must not be done and that was clear repudiation of the fashionable Tory right. But it was not prescriptive unless in the incontestable warning that the politics of consent would be ignored at Conservative's peril.

Similarly, the views of Mr Prior are restraining at this stage, rather than propelling. There remains of course his insistence in the policy document "The Right Approach to the Economy"—accepted in 1977 by all the party—on clear collaboration

between unions, employers and government, and that so far has been left in abeyance. Yet this Government will hardly prosper if it makes its policy to appeal always over the heads of union leadership to the rank and file.

Still, even if as one junior minister put it, the arithmetic remains, always, that a Tory prime minister can afford a revolt on the right but never on the left of the party because they are the majority where does that allow a possible change of policy?

For a start it can be argued that the restraints have ensured that none of the new trade union laws proposed will be in force until next winter. In other words they have prevented worse. Some of their supporters believe it will be a gain if the leadership now realizes it has to cease deriding dissenters as "wets", and treat them instead as sensitive judges of political feeling. Perhaps they will be judged by how far they can help turn round the Government's disastrous reputation of having made everyone worse off except the very rich.

Resignation threats have apparently again been part of the recent infighting. But since none has occurred there is still hardly material here for a great divide. What little comfort we can take is that dissent is making for a larger degree of open government which was never intended.



Wreckage of the Air New Zealand DC10.

## The Polar air crash that shattered New Zealand

Koro first came to New Zealand in the minds of Maori canoe voyagers who crossed large parts of the Pacific Ocean to settle in the beautiful land of Aotearoa—the Land of the Long White Cloud—New Zealand. The Koro lies on its eastern coast, with a sprawling Maori settlement. It is still alive today.

As the symbol of the spirit of the ancient voyagers it represented the courage and enterprise of New Zealand's first explorers and now flies the skies in its adapted form of a stunningly simple symbol painted on the tail of the giant jet airliners—the Air New Zealand DC10s.

Barely three months have passed since Air New Zealand's Antarctic disaster, but eight weeks on and New Zealand remains stunned. It is almost impossible to assess the impact that the terrible crash of the family airline has had on a country as small as New Zealand. The Koro lies on its side in the frozen wastes at the bottom of the world. It is strange that the only recognizable part of the aircraft is the tail, and even from aerial photographs one can pick out the Koro if nothing else.

I am a New Zealander and one of my brothers is a pilot on DC10s for Air New Zealand. New Zealand is bigger than the United Kingdom, even if only slightly, but comparatively it has an almost unbelievably small population—around three million. Underneath the traditional tough reputation of New Zealanders lies an amazing sensitivity which has manifested itself particularly in these depressing weeks following the crash.

I have lived in London for eight years and yet, in spite of the international standing it can claim for itself, few people realize just how isolated New Zealand is. Its nearest neighbour is about as far as Athens is from London in flying time and yet, in spite of this isolation and of its very small population, or maybe because of it, it is an ambitious little country.

Its exports reach worldwide markets (very few anywhere would not have heard of New Zealand lamb or butter), its sporting achievements and reputation are challenged in and by many countries. And on the domestic scene, while the United Kingdom with 20 million the population has just three colour television channels, New Zealand has two.

Godfrey Bell

## How Nessie's Soviet cousin came to a sad end

As a technology-conscious American expedition is about to send camera-carrying dolphins into the icy waters of Loch Ness this spring, a kind of secure proof of the lake's resident monster, Nessie's one and only reputed relation in the Soviet Union has been dealt a death-blow.

Hopes that Nessie, sporting the putative scientific name of *Nessiteros rhomboides* by courtesy of Sir Peter Scott, might have a Soviet cousin in the deep waters of Lake Kok-Kol in Kazakhstan, were raised in 1975 when Anatoly Pechersky, a Soviet geographer, reported several sightings of a mysterious prehistoric-type lake monster.

The huge, snake-like creature with a relatively small head was described in the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* by Mr Pechersky, who estimated the monster had a body 50ft long and a 6ft head. The newspaper, the organ of the Soviet Young Communist League, announced plans two years after Mr Pechersky's sensational re-

port to send a student expedition to investigate the reported sightings.

The sightings continued and, eventually, a further expedition has been mounted with support of the Zoological Institute of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences.

The Kazakh legends about the origins and habits of Nessie's Soviet cousin—the name the Soviet press has given to the Kok-Kol monster—appear very similar to the beliefs held by the people living around Loch Ness.

Although by necessity the Kok-Kol monster must be fish-eating because of its habitat, it is reputed to have strong carnivorous tendencies. According to local reports and the corroborating observations of geologists, sheep grazing on the lake shore disappear with great regularity and the monster—two young brothers recently—are frequently pulled down into the deep.

Unlike our silent Nessie, the Kok-Kol monster is a noisy beast. The sightings have been



Sir Peter Scott's drawing of the Loch Ness monster... in Russia too?

accompanied by a sound "resembling a strangled camel cry and eerie whistles".

Sergei Ibrahimov, a Kazakh scientific journalist who accompanied the latest expedition to the lake, had heard the monster's cry when he first spent his holiday at Kok-Kol with his son in 1974.

"Suddenly all the birds fishing in the lake flew off and, amid awful screaming, circled above one point of Kok-Kol. I could not understand their behaviour as the lake seemed perfectly calm. Then unexpectedly, the water began to heave and wave some 21 to 24 feet from where I was standing.

"Then zig-zags appeared on the lake surface, which seemed to eddy and whirl as if a huge, snake-like body were swimming just below. I estimated its length at least 45 feet. The creature, with the snake-like body, seemed to be raising itself from the lake and the waves broke over it.

"The eerie spectacle lasted several minutes and I became quite convinced that the monster was about to raise its head from the water. And I forgot all about the scepticism that a scientific researcher is expected to show in the presence of a monster.

In a follow-up report in the popular scientific journal *Voprosy Sveta*, Mr Ibrahimov has now presented the findings of the scientific expedition sent to resolve once and for all the question of Nessie's Soviet cousin. The riddle of "the monster" was finally resolved

by V. Volchikov, a scientific officer of the South Kazakh Geological Institute, according to the report.

He established that Kok-Kol is an ice Age moraine that has filled a deep crater. In such lakes, the water often burrows under the lake floor. Under the floor of Lake Kok-Kol there are many such siphons and whole channels. "Indeed, we have uncovered these channels and measured their depths", the report says.

"The rest is obvious. Depending on the nature of the underground hydrological system, the channels beneath the lake floor draw in water from the lake. The intake of water can be weaker; this is when small whirlpools appear, or the surface of Kok-Kol shows a snake-

like motion resembling the body of a deer water monster. However, the intake of water can be most violent, and on such occasions the under-floor siphons can draw in air with the water, hence the strange sound", the report concludes.

This, of course, could also explain the disappearance of sheep at the edge of the water and the sudden disappearance of strong swimmers.

The findings of the expedition appear to be sounding the death-knell for Nessie's Soviet cousin. But the explanation of the "monster" phenomenon might also have some bearing on the continuing controversy about the existence of Nessie itself.

Aware of this setback to "Nessiteros rhomboides" and its brood, the expedition organized by the Academy of Applied Science of Boston is now set to send down into Loch Ness's murky waters camera-carrying dolphins to secure tangible proof of Nessie's existence.

Mr Charles Wyckoff, the expedition's photographic director, had hoped to use a dolphin last summer. But the mammal, trained to carry strobe lights and a miniature computer-operated camera, had insufficiently large object had died unexpectedly before being shipped to Scotland. So now over to the intrepid pair of freshly-trained dolphins.

Gabriel Ronay

## Still a rich harvest in publishing

Ten years ago today a 28-year-old graduate student at Sussex University received the first delivery of a limited edition of George Gissing's novel *Isabel Clarendon*. He had decided to have it reprinted after finding great difficulty in obtaining an original copy.

Working from the bedroom of his flat in Hove, Mr John Spiers stuffed copies of the book into jiffy bags and addressed them to American universities which had agreed to take copies of the reprint. *Isabel Clarendon* was the first volume to come out under the imprint of the Harvester Press. Today the Press has an annual turnover of more than £1m and Mr Spiers, as publisher and managing director, works with a staff of 40 in the Georgian buildings in the centre of Brighton.

Harvester's success and its plans make a refreshing contrast to the generally rather depressed state and gloomy doom of British publishers. It has blossomed in a decade of recession and now, when many other publishing houses are busy sacking their staff

and pruning their lists, Mr Spiers has just taken on a new editorial director, Mr Edward Elgar, to launch a new imprint, "Wheatseaf", which will move into the textbook market.

When he brought out his first book Mr Spiers had no intention of becoming a full-time publisher. He was in his first year of working for a doctorate on the relationship between intellectuals and progressive politicians in early twentieth century Britain. He decided to reprint *Isabel Clarendon* largely because he had himself become interested in Gissing after coming across an autographed copy of *Grub Street* in Henry James's house in Rye.

To finance the reprint, he hit on the idea which lay behind Harvester's early development and success. He used to give away his books to university libraries, telling them that he was intending to produce a limited edition of one of Giss-

ing's rarest novels. Within six weeks he had 500 form orders and enough money to ensure that the venture would make a substantial profit.

For the first four years Harvester concentrated on producing reprints and selling them in advance principally to foreign universities. Its first and most ambitious project was the reprinting in 128 volumes of the year books produced by the three major political parties in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Mr Spiers's combination of boyish enthusiasm and shrewd entrepreneurship ensured the project's success. A full-page advertisement in the American *Publishers' Weekly*, which he had been persuaded into taking without knowing anything about the magazine, brought inquiries from a leading Japanese book distributor.

Mr Spiers persuaded him to commit himself to 25 sets of yearbooks with a further five on sale or return basis.

Mr Spiers reckons that he got into the reprint business just at the right time. He says: "There was a boom in student numbers, academic libraries had more money than they knew what to do with and it was really possible to sell each of them two copies of anything you decided to do."

When he started running out of suitable titles to reprint in 1973, he moved into microfilm.

Harvester's breakthrough into original publishing came by accident. Early in 1974 Dr A. B. Cooke, a historian at Queen's University, Belfast, telephoned John Spiers to say that he and Professor John Vincent of Bristol University had an important manuscript which they were having difficulty getting accepted by the usual academic publisher.

"Where are you now?" asked Mr Spiers. "In Bath", was the reply.

"Meet me outside the Abbey doors at 1 pm tomorrow and we'll publish the book immediately."

Cooke and Vincent's book, *The Governing Passion*, which dealt with one year's deliberations of a Gladstonian Cabinet, turned out to be a major breakthrough in the treatment of political history. It received ecstatic reviews both in academic journals and in the press. Characteristically, Mr Spiers rushed out a leaflet which he sent to academics asking them if their last book had been so well reviewed in so many places. He was soon receiving a steady stream of good manuscripts.

As with his first venture into publishing, Mr Spiers reckons that he was lucky with his timing. Harvester found itself economically secure and keen to move into original publishing just at the time when inflation was forcing many established publishers to

move out of monographs and specialist works.

Mr Spiers, who at 38 still looks like a Sussex student, feels that his unorthodox approach is one of the main reasons for Harvester's success.

"If I had come up the traditional way, through an established house like most of the people who start their own publishing firms, I doubt if I would ever have been prepared to take the necessary risks", he says.

Mr Spiers is not too worried about what other publishers think. He has already resisted three take-over bids and is determined to keep Harvester out of London and reasonably small.

Meanwhile, he positively welcomes the coming recession that other publishers are so much dreading. "Recessions tend to thaw the ice and release a lot of books from other publishing houses. After all, if there hadn't been a recession in the early 1970s, we would never have got *The Governing Passion*."

Ian Bradley

## LAKE PLACID DIARY

## The Olympians stay aloof from politics

Six years ago at the time of the award of the 1980 Olympics in Vienna, I conducted a poll among 50 members of the press there to test international opinion on the acceptability of Moscow. On that occasion 46 were in favour of Moscow, three against, and one idiosyncratic Briton was against both cities because he could see little to choose between the intractability of Moscow and the excessive commercialization of the other candidate, Los Angeles.

I have just completed the same exercise here in Lake Placid, to me, surprising results. I had expected that the tide would have turned savagely against the Soviet Union in view of recent developments. In fact, they still commanded a solid majority of 34 to 13 with three undecided. Still more surprising, of eight Americans there was only one against and one undecided. The poll, allowing for the absence of eastern Europeans, whom I did not consult represents a sample of about five per cent.

The most telling response came from a member of the British corps, Mr Christopher

Hilton, of the *Daily Express*, who stands far to the right politically. "It's like a woman having a baby", he said. "Once she's allowed herself to become pregnant it's a little too late to change her mind."

He was echoing the rather more prosaic reply of an Italian, who said she thought the International Olympics Committee were wrong in 1974 to choose Moscow, but there could be no going back on it now. One of her companions had to be recorded among the "don't know" because he was in favour of Moscow as a sports journalist but opposed to the Russian capital "for democratic reasons". (A complex character, he is also opposed to journalists having access to printing keyboards, but that is another matter.)

A common reply in support of Moscow was based on the feeling that to withdraw now would mean the end of the Olympic Games, even of a whole range of international sports. No doubt there are many outside the world of sports who would regard that as a blessing, but of course it is hardly the way a sports journalist would be expected to look at things.

Americans, too surprisingly, were more ready than most with their responses. One found it hard to stomach what was going on in Afghanistan, but still wanted the Games, to continue in Moscow. Another

though the idea of a boycott would be a futile and indeed politically dishonest gesture, engineered with presidential election in mind. He did not feel that the absence of a head-and-toe walker would make a shred of difference. Yet another, sickened by the tone of Mr Cyrus Vance's address to the IOC on Saturday, asked: "Wouldn't it be dreadful if the United States, of all countries, was the one to put out the Olympic light?"

The no-vote among the Americans was a man who established his position on the issue, unexpected ground that he was a loyal United States citizen and "I guess I have to go along with what the Government says". It seemed to carry a hint of what many of us felt, that the Games, on the other hand, argued that every host city "made a big thing of it". He thought that "for 300,000 people to invade Moscow would be a lot of fun". The Olympics, he joked, could succeed where "we Germans



failed nearly 40 years ago". Other Germans simply could not get Afghanistan out of their minds.

One opponent of Moscow was influenced by the repression in the Soviet Union, but would apply the same yardstick to other countries—such as Argentina and Chile—a view which would seem to inhibit the IOC if required to

apply moral judgments among its 151 member nations.

A Canadian implacably opposed to communism was yet distressed by reading Bernard Levin's contributions to the *Times*, since he thought they went so far as to defeat their object. "The IOC will think", he said, "that enemies like that, who needs friends."

A Finnish view was that the Games must go ahead in Moscow for constitutional reasons, but her feelings were such that she hoped that a telling number of competitors would refuse to go. A Japanese joined the "aye" lobby because he "wanted the world to know what Russia is really like".

A view from Britain was that had the Games been scheduled for 1981 he would have supported a move but it was too late now and unfair on the athletes to deny them their chance. "Dammit, it's the Olympics", he said. "It's got nothing to do with politics."

Scandinavians were democratically divided, but one came cautiously to Moscow's defence. So far so good, he said, "but let them put one foot on Pakistan and that's the end".

Four Chinese were of a single mind. We must not go to Moscow now. "Not after Afghanistan". A Frenchman, after much agonizing, wanted the Games moved from Moscow

because sport is such a strong weapon that the Russians and their kind counted on it so much for world prestige.

It was, of course, impossible to poll the same 50 journalists, although in the nature of these things some were involved on both occasions. It need to be borne in mind, too, that those at Vienna in 1974 were close observers of Olympic politics and basically sympathetic to its aims and ideals. Many here, on the other hand, have been dragged into it and cannot wait for the flame to go out on February 24, perhaps never to be relit.

## Early starter

Every day she busies herself with the typewriters of the press centre, a red strip of cardboard attesting to her credentials. With so many women now involved in sports journalism, jock-trap journalism somebody called it the regular appearance of Kathy Reich (pronounced Rich) would not be surprising were it not for one thing. She is only eight. She has been given provisional accreditation to be at the side of her father, a political writer for *The Los Angeles Times* when he is not embedded in the various off-charge Olympic dramas.

I suggested to Kathy that if she attended conscientiously to

her homework, (as she does herself) she would grow up to be as smart as her father. She peered through her metal rimmed spectacles and replied, precociously but not conceitedly: "But I'm already smarter than him."

I challenged her therefore, to write a report on the buzz of activity around here. This is how she sees us:

The International Press, by Kathy Reich: Something we rely on is the international press. They give us the information necessary for a newspaper. Here are my feelings on the press. Some people probably have told you stories about reporters being nosy. This is not true. Here is what my father was a reporter: Reporters are nosy, she said.

But reporters aren't nosy. They do not write long neat pieces but work against the clock. I think a lot of the press work very hard. But some people don't work hard at all. Personally, I think some people who get the highest pay are the ones that work the least. The only people you can call "nosy" are the reporters that talk about fan times with your family and ask to see pictures of your house.

Otherwise, reporters are just doing their jobs. A good reporter, I feel, should be respected. The international press should work hard enough for

people to say: "I think the press who report this certainly is a good reporter."

I think that if reporters follow these tips they can certainly be very good. Try not to be "nosy". I like reporters who don't lie. I also like reporters who get the facts, and mean all the facts about his story before he writes it. The end.

Kathy believes she is a help to her father here because, she explains with a roguish smile, "Madame Berlioux (director of the IOC) likes me and through me my father is able to get interviews other reporters can't get". I can well imagine.

How sad. How sad to be a popular paper journalist. "How sad", one wrote a day or two ago, "that when the American dream meets the Olympic ideal something has to die". Only to discover the following day that the passage had been savaged out of existence by an unfeeling sub-editor. I confessed to the man in question that I would have liked to have written such a sentence. Emulating Wilde, he replied: "You will, you will". And I have.

John Hennessey





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## THE HARD MEN OF POLAND

The decision to dismiss Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Prime Minister, and three other members of the politburo was an unusually dramatic one, carried out in the full glare of publicity at the party congress and reflecting the tensions that have built up in Poland in recent years. Mr Jaroszewicz has been made a scapegoat in the past for the economic shortcomings of the regime, though without losing his job. This time he had the humiliation of having the speech he was due to make cancelled, and of having to sit silently through long and detailed criticisms of the Government's performance, all in preparation for yesterday's announcement of his resignation. Clearly this procedure was an indication of the party's concern over the widespread discontent over Poland's economic troubles. But the scale of the purge suggests that there was more to it than a need to find someone to blame for these troubles.

Mr Gierk has succeeded in removing Mr Stefan Olszowski, the former Foreign Minister, a man of considerable intellectual standing who was regarded as a possible successor. He has also ousted Mr Jozef Tejchma, the former Education Minister, who was well known for his relatively liberal approach, and Mr Jozef Kupa, who, though a hardliner on some issues, has recently supported a more liberal approach on economic policy. In their place are four new members of

the politburo all of whom have reputations as hardliners.

This is particularly true of Mr Jerzy Lukaszewicz, who is well known for advocating a more repressive policy towards dissidents. It is of course hard to be sure that they will necessarily stick to a hard line on all issues. But the impression is that, either because of anxiety over the economic situation or for security reasons, the Polish leadership has made a marked turn to a harder line, which could result in more repressive policies than there have been in the past few years.

It is understandable that there should be concern about the economy. In the early 1970s, after Mr Gierk had succeeded Mr Gomulka in 1970—and brought in Mr Jaroszewicz as Prime Minister—there was a great deal of optimism. Consumption and investment were encouraged, and loans were taken out in the West. The hope was that by building up its own industries, Poland would be able to make enough money through exports to pay back the loans. This strategy went wrong for a number of reasons, including the increase in oil prices and the recession in the West, and today the economy is in severe difficulties, saddled with an external debt of over 18,000 million dollars, which can only be serviced by taking more loans. Internally, there has not been a repetition of the disturbances in 1976, when the Government an-

nounced a 60 per cent increase in basic food prices, and Mr Jaroszewicz had to reverse the decision publicly within twenty-four hours because of rioting in Warsaw and elsewhere. But there is serious discontent over shortfalls in production, shortages of goods, and inefficiency, reflected in the criticisms at this week's congress.

The powerful Roman Catholic Church—emboldened by the election of Pope John Paul II—has been anxious that this discontent should not get out of hand, because it is aware that that could only lead to heavy repression. But dissident groups, and their samizdat publications, have flourished in the easier atmosphere of the past few years. The question now, therefore, is whether this week's purge was simply a matter of shuffling off responsibility for the economic troubles and ensuring the position of Mr Gierk, or whether it means a radical change of policy. There seems no doubt that the Soviet Union was closely identified with the changes in the politburo. Mr Jaroszewicz was known as a Moscow man, and Mr Suslov, the Soviet ideologist, was in Warsaw for the congress. Poland, even more than other East European countries, has been used by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which it has supported with conspicuous lack of enthusiasm. It is afraid for its developing links with the West. It must be hoped that these, and the liberal advances of recent years, are not now at risk.

## A HARD, LONG FIGHT STILL AHEAD

The sharp increase in the Retail Price Index in January is another reminder that reducing the rate of inflation to acceptable levels is going to be a long and hard job. The latest figures are not unexpected. The consequences of the increase in mortgage charges in January would alone have ensured that the figures would be bad. But it has become clear in recent months that inflationary pressures on the economy are even more intense than was recognized when this Government came to office in May of last year.

A continuing rise in world commodity prices means that industry is having to pay more for the raw materials which it uses even though the pound is strong. This in turn is both squeezing profit margins and forcing industry to put up the price which it charges for its goods.

The pressures which industry has faced mean that we must expect the inflation rate to rise for some months yet, probably going above 20 per cent near the middle of the year before it starts to decline. Even on quite optimistic assumptions about the likely course of pay and import prices during the months ahead, we can only expect a relatively gentle improvement over the next twelve months. The money supply is only slowly coming under control and it will take time to allow the forces which

will moderate pay and price increases as a result to work through.

This is a much slower improvement than the Government had hoped to achieve. As recently as November it predicted that inflation would fall to 14 per cent by the end of this year. It now seems unlikely that it will be able to get the increase in prices down to that figure before the second half of 1981. Two factors are responsible for this. One is that the world inflationary environment has turned out to be even worse than expected, with increases in oil prices generating a sharp increase in inflationary expectations everywhere. The second problem is domestic. Wages are still rising far too rapidly.

If we are to reduce inflation to an acceptable level, the pace at which wages rise will have to come down sharply. The sooner this is recognized by unions and management alike, the less suffering in the form of unemployment we shall have to face.

The Government's policy faces a critical test during the next six months. We are likely to see a severe slowdown in economic output without any equivalent slowdown in the inflation rate. This combination is certain to lead to intense political pressures on the Government to relax its policy. It is vital that these should be resisted. The Government has always stressed that its policies need time to work and

that is what is certainly required now. The difficulties of the policy are being experienced now, but the benefits which will begin to flow next year from a reduction in the inflation rate could provide the foundation for sound economic growth for years to come.

As inflation falls, interest rates should be able to start to come down and a drop in interest rates would do more to encourage investment and employment than any Government-administered stimulus could ever do. Yet only by showing a determination to stand by its policies can the Government hope to achieve the change in expectations which will be necessary to reduce the inflation rate.

If ministers need any further reminder of the need to stand firm, it should come from the latest depressing set of trade statistics which were published yesterday which show that the current account was in deficit to the tune of £346m in January. A deficit of this size is not the sign of an economy which needs a further stimulus to boost output. It is the symptom of too many years of expanding demand without providing the supply to meet it. The lesson of the latest economic statistics is not that the Government's policies are not working. It is that those policies must be pursued with continued determination in the months ahead.

## NO LONGER AN EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION

That surgeons should set to work on St Valentine's Day to transplant a heart from one breast to another—the most concrete embodiment imaginable of popular sentimental imagery—no longer seems a macabre or even astonishing fact. We grow used to wonders quickly, and the latest transplant is the third in Britain within a month, and the sixth in six months. The operation, virtually abandoned here ten years ago in acrimony and disillusion, is now officially in favour again, and we may expect to see it performed about 20 times a year in future. The change of view is due to advances made in treatment by Professor Norman Shumway in the USA, which allow a patient to look forward to an even chance of five years' survival in good health after a transplant.

In the 1960s the operation acquired considerable significance as a symbol of glamorous, technological, expensive medicine of questionable value in terms of results. As health care services all over the world became aware of the impossibility of filling the gap between demand and resources, a more sceptical attitude to medical virtuosity rightly prevailed. It is not practical humane to apply strict criteria of cost-benefit to health care, but it is right that all procedures should constantly be required to justify themselves against alter-

native candidates for scarce funds.

Today, transplant surgery can make a better case for itself in these terms than some well-established procedures, especially in the field of cancer treatment. On young patients (the latest is only 23) it has an excellent chance of exchanging the prospect of death within six months for that of years of life and productive employment. Heart transplantation requires skills and equipment already available in specialist cardiac units, and official disapproval was coming uncomfortably close to external intrusion upon the clinical discretion of the surgeons involved. The number of patients who need heart transplants is not large. The problem of finding suitable donors is therefore less acute than it is with kidney transplantation. Some 600 kidney transplants are done every year in Britain, with a high success rate—but three times as many patients could benefit but cannot. This is partly because kidney transplants are given a lower financial priority in Britain than in some other countries, and partly because of a perceptible national inhibition about using kidneys from living volunteer donors (at small risk to the donors).

According to a survey made in 1977, the restricted availability of organs from the dead has more

to do with reluctance to consider the subject than with hostility or fears about over-enthusiastic snatching of essential organs from the not-yet-dead (a subject now covered by strict rules laid down by the Medical Royal Colleges). The campaign to encourage willing potential donors to carry cards identifying themselves has never had much success. If the wishes of the donor are not known, gaining consent from the next-of-kin in the short time available can be difficult and distressing.

It has often been suggested that the legal presumption should be reversed, and surgeons allowed to operate unless a card expressing an objection is found. This would pay too little respect to a minority view which may be deeply held even though inarticulate, and might easily revive public mistrust. Donor cards are awkward in size and perishable—it would be better if they were plastic, to be carried with their credit cards by those wishing to be prepared for all eventualities. A still better plan would be for driving licences to contain a section that willing donors could fill in, as is done in Australia and Canada. Transplant surgery is no longer an experimental or speculative procedure, and an everyday routine for enabling donors to identify themselves is urgently needed.

to continue its work of probing and stimulating penal practice. Yours faithfully, JOYCE WILLIAMS, 11 Frognet Way, Hampstead, NW3.

### Ill wind

From Mr G. W. Sweetnam  
Sir, Your leader of February 9: Baldwin, Callaghan and Prior are indeed notable to have been sent for from a windward vantage point. Yours, etc, G. W. SWEETNAM, 22 Denbyview Road, Abbots Leigh, Bristol.

### An invaluable quango

From Mrs Joyce Williams  
Sir, While wholeheartedly supporting the letter from Lord Gardiner and his distinguished co-signatories, I would urge that it should not be overlooked that the Advisory Council on the Penal System has made other notable reports influencing the sentencing powers of courts.

The Prison report, "The Length of Prison Sentences", 1977, stimulated reappraisal of their effectiveness. From "Non-Custodial and Semi-Custodial Penalties", 1970, came many practical recommenda-

tions, in particular "community service by offenders" as an alternative to custody.

CSO schemes have now extended to all areas of England and Wales: inner London, one of the first to use this sentence, made 1,200 orders in the year ending March 31, 1978, which is 9 per cent of the national total. The opportunity of reparation by suitable offenders by performing unpaid work in their leisure time is an imaginative penalty, with considerable benefits for the recipients. The cost of this scheme is minimal, compared with the colossal expense of maintaining the prison system.

On economic grounds alone, the Advisory Council should be allowed

## Plans for the welfare of the world

From Mr Edward Holloway

Sir, In your leading article today (February 13) dealing with the Brundage Commission on North-South relations, you rightly say that the "due" not only face the problem that massive transfers of resources to the South would inevitably mean massive financing of deficits in those areas.

There is no doubt that this is one of the major factors inhibiting the solution to the problems of the have-not nations. It is being increasingly recognized that some way of dealing with the imbalances arising from the disparity in wealth and natural resources between the developing and developed world is an urgent necessity.

This problem was recognized as urgent in the 1940s, when postwar plans for international trade were under consideration. In 1942, Lord Keynes put forward a scheme which made the point that equal pressure should be brought to bear not only on the debtor nation to pay its debts, but also on the creditor to accept payment.

Keynes envisaged the setting up of a clearing union, in which payments between nations could be swapped and the means established to iron out the debtor-creditor relationships. This plan was turned down at Bretton Woods in 1944; it was found unacceptable by the United States Congress of those days.

In 1941 a publication entitled *A Twentieth Century Economic System* was published by the Economic Reform Club and Institute. This envisaged a system of multilateral contr-account, whereby nations would acquire credits in an international clearing union when they exported. It could only clear those credits when it imported, so creating a contr-account. It would not have to import from the country to which it sold but, if it wished to take payment, it could do so only by importing from some other nation to the value of its exports (visible and invisible).

Failure to import would result in

a credit held by the international clearing union; credits so created would have an agreed life and would then be cancelled.

This plan, very briefly summarized, achieved significant support at a subsequent conference of Commonwealth chambers of commerce and when I broadcast on the subject in 1947 (subsequently published in *The Listener*) letters in support came from all parts of the world.

A clearing scheme was put forward by Dr Herbert Feis, at that time an official of the American Treasury. He advocated setting up an international clearing house where claims between the various countries could be swapped and, if claims remained outstanding over an agreed period of years, they would be cancelled.

With the breakdown of the Bretton Woods system, and the better system of international payments is increasingly recognized. A system under which nations in credit should accept the obligation, which is now crucial in the case of many developing countries, to increase the volume of their imports would give the debtors the opportunity of meeting their indebtedness. Such a system would provide the machinery whereby export surplus and deficit balances were held in an agreed clearing union.

The high-income industrialized countries need an expansion of world markets. The low-income countries would provide the capacity for that expansion. It means we need to enable them to meet their obligations without being saddled with unpayable debt.

Aid and loans cannot by themselves do more than tinkering with the problem. I suggest we need to reexamine the ideas put forward in the 1940s as a matter of supreme urgency.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD HOLLOWAY, Honorary Secretary, Economic Research Council, 55 Park Lane, W1.

## A word for the Vikings

From Mr John Fuller

Sir, Michael Frenchman's suggestion (February 9) that the word "vikings" means going on a trip seems unlikely.

The Nordic word for a bay either by the sea or on a river bend was "vik". It was used in many place names such as Reykjavik, Narvik and Patrisvik. It was anglicized in the Danelaw of England to "vick" or "vick". Examples are Norwich (North bay), Harwich and Wickham.

It seems more likely that the Vikings were those who dwelt by the bays as opposed to those who dwelt in the fields and mountains.

Yours faithfully, JOHN FULLER, 73 St Albans Road, Trumpington, Cambridge.

## A father's rights

From Mr Alan Isaacs

Sir, The admirably succinct letter from Mrs John Tacon (February 11) on the unfortunate effect of the 1969 divorce legislation, may I add a rider.

A wife minded to behave in the manner described may effectively achieve her objects unilaterally and virtually on demand. All she has to do is to file and serve a divorce petition, making a number of allegations of unreasonable behaviour upon her husband's part, however insubstantial, and indeed even to some extent fabricated.

The husband, blameless to some extent or otherwise, will find upon taking advice that he cannot really oppose the petition in present circumstances, for a number of practical reasons; among others that the Court in giving directions for trial will not usually seek to dissuade him from doing so.

Yours faithfully, ALAN ISAACS, Alan Isaacs and Co, Solicitors, 16-17 Devonshire Square, EC2.

## From Mr Trevor Barry

Sir, Your Law Report, "Father loses custody and home" (February 9), a timely reminder of widespread concern over the operation of that aspect of family law relating to arrangements for the children of broken marriages.

While fathers are deemed unfit to have care and control or even shared custody of their own children, however commendable their credentials, tragedies similar to the one on page 6, February 6 ("Life")

## Mrs Thatcher's model son

From Miss Norma Keasley

Sir, With its masses in this country constantly harping on their rights (though never a mention of their obligations) this hysterical outburst both in Parliament and outside over Mrs Thatcher modelling for a Japanese company is nothing short of impertinence.

This young man has chosen to be a racing driver, and most people know that motor racing is an extremely expensive business, and that unless the drivers are very rich and can absorb the heavy expenses involved, they are greatly dependent upon sponsorship. Mark Thatcher approached British firms for this sponsorship first and was refused (rudely, we're told); so far from being censured he should be applauded for showing enough confidence in his ability as a racing driver and initiative in seeking money elsewhere.

As a citizen of the United Kingdom he has the same rights in choosing a career as every other citizen. On the racing circuit he has no preferential treatment over other drivers. The fact that he happens to be the son of our Prime Minister does not impose upon him any obligations that could seriously mar his chances of following and furthering his career, especially since it has

been proved that this fact has not helped him much in gaining sponsorship in his own country!

As to the Prime Minister giving her son a "wiggly" over this, he is 26 years old and I imagine reacts in a very average manner to any family interference, especially in something as important to him as his career "politely" thanks his Mum for her advice, then adds that he must make his own decisions!

I hope Mark Thatcher and his Mum will continue to mind their respective businesses, and that the critics will get their own houses in order without looking for excuses outside.

Yours faithfully, RAMA KELLEY, 27 Arundale Road, SW14, February 14.

## Tender care

From Mr Patrick Ide

Sir, An entry in your "announcements" column today (February 11) reads:

"NANNY FOR TURKEY—Fellows opportunity."

I should think it would be.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK IDE, Kidds Hill Farm, Colchester, Essex, February 14.

## Sex education in schools

From the Headmaster of Elcham Green School

Sir, There seem to be two underlying assumptions made by the sex education missionaries to whom Ronald Butt refers (February 14). They are that young people will have no problems with sex provided (a) they know enough different ways of doing it and (b) they have ready access to contraceptives and abortion. If only they are given enough information and are able to prevent unwanted pregnancies, everything will be fine.

Anyone who believes that knows nothing about young people and is bled to reality. In my experience, schoolgirls who become pregnant are rarely if ever ignorant of how to prevent it. Their sexual problems are often part of much bigger ones to do with human relationships in general. Usually they are seeking in vain what the writers of sex handbooks like *Make it Happy* studiously ignore: love and understanding.

Once separated from education in human relationships in their full moral and psychological dimensions, sex education becomes a counterfeit, unable to solve the problems it pretends to answer and often adding to them instead. I shudder to contemplate the likely sexual careers of some youngsters I have known who had been thoroughly briefed in the various activities recommended in the pages of *Make it Happy*.

This letter is not an argument against telling young people about

sex. My case is that it must be done with the utmost care; that it must be set in the right context; that the wishes of the home should be taken into account. George Gardiner is right to propose his amendment to the Education Bill and here is one headmaster who agrees with him.

Since my comprehensive school for 1,800 boys and girls is bigger by half a thousand than that of my neighbour, Charles Stuart-Jervis, of Abbey Wood, I think my opinion should be given greater weight than his.

Yours faithfully, PETER DAWSON, Headmaster, Elcham Green School, Queenscroft Road, SE9, February 14.

## From Lady Brook

Sir, Ronald Butt's article (February 14) leads me to say that "what every parent should know" is that there are countless men and women, parents, who are too selfish, too ignorant, too lazy to be bothered about their children's general education.

From birth till death it is now the privilege of the parental State to take major decisions—objective, unemotional, the State weighs up what is best for the child.

Innocent ignorance, or careless teaching of the facts of life by dedicated teachers in school? Yours faithfully, HELEN BROOK, 51 Acacia Road, NWS.

## Trade unions and the law

From Mr C. L. Fox

Sir, Mr Keith Shewering's enigmatic comparison (February 13) of Mr Prior with Stanley Baldwin is surely a little bizarre. They were certainly, towards the TUC, men of peace. But there was no softly, softly approach by Baldwin's Government to the General Strike of 1926. The unions challenged the Government, and were decisively beaten. King George V then appealed for magnanimity in the peace-making; instead, Baldwin continued in the road in 1927 of many of the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act of 1906. (Almost the first thing Ernest Baldwin did in 1945 was to repeal Baldwin's 1927 Act.)

"Baldwin was right then", says Mr Shewering. But when? In 1925, when he was the Prime Minister, he attempted to abolish the unions' political levy? Or in 1926-27 when he crushed the unions' attempt to dominate the Government? "And Mr Prior is right now", Mr Shewering continues. Whether he is right or not, to compare him in his present dilemma with Baldwin is merely to confuse the argument.

Yours sincerely, C. L. FOX, Heatherbrow, The Ridges, Finchampstead, Berkshire, February 13.

## The Liberal tradition

From Dr N. E. Saul

Sir, Sir Ian Gilmour (February 12) assumes that the Conservative Party should proclaim the same gospel as it proclaimed 200 years ago in the age of Burke.

He dislikes the favour with which Liberal theorists are currently regarded by Conservatives while at the same time conveniently ignoring the Liberal tradition in the party on which such favour draws. On several occasions over the past century or more the party has received within its ranks deserters from the Whiggish fold. After the break-up of the Liberal Party in the 1880s over Home Rule, for example, the Liberal Unionists gradually transferred their allegiance to the Conservatives.

After the split in Asquith's government in the First World War, another bloc of Liberals came over to the Conservative camp. The result has been to inject a strong element of Liberal thought into the

Conservative Party, and one all the more welcome in the present over-collectivist age.

Sir Ian is of course hostile to ideological commitment. Such an attitude of detachment was all very well in the nineteenth century when both Whigs and Tories occupied essentially the same ground.

It is not so realistic in the twentieth century when successive Labour governments, which cur little for the middle ground, have succeeded in shifting the arena of political debate further and further to the left, so far in fact that it would be unrecognizable to Conservatives of a generation ago. The only way for the party to answer this challenge is to adopt an ideology of its own.

Yours sincerely, NIGEL SAUL, Department of History, Royal Holloway College, Egham Hill, Surrey, February 13.

## Journalists' strike

From Mr Denis MacShane

Sir, In a letter published on January 10 (which I missed seeing at the time) Mr John Cloyes says that there were two of the NUJ's provincial membership prior to the provincial journalists' strike that commenced in December, 1978, and that the NUJ's Executive Council decision was taken with a record number of abstentions.

He is wrong on both counts. For the record, can I point out that the NUJ's 8,500 provincial members were extensively consulted in the form of meetings of their chapters and special meetings of chapel representatives. At all of these meetings votes were recorded and at each stage there was a majority for rejecting the employers' offer and taking industrial action, including strike action.

Some confusion may have arisen in Mr Cloyes's mind because it was the NUJ Executive that formally ordered the strike. Under NUJ rules only the Executive did this power. What the Executive did, except, was to ratify a decision already taken by the rank and file members of the rank and file members. In that vote, out of 24 NEC members present only three abstained, a lower level of abstention than in many other NUJ Executive votes.

Finally I agree with Mr Cloyes that not every single provincial journalist voted. Luckily this is not the Soviet Union and consequently 99 per cent turnout in British voting procedures are very rare happenings indeed. Yours faithfully, DENIS MACSHANE, 29 Gloucester Crescent, NW1, February 12.

## Arms and the man

From Master Richard A. Knowles

Sir, In reference to your article in today's edition of *The Times* on page 4 (February 9), regarding "Moscow adds its most advanced weapons to Kabul arsenal," Mr Pisk refers to "cracked armoured cars" with anti-aircraft capabilities. I suppose that this refers to the Soviet ZSU-23-4. The last sentence of this paragraph states: "Nato has nothing to match them."

In view of this I would like to refer to the West German self-propelled anti-aircraft unit, the Flakpanzer Gepard. It has twin 35mm cannons and a complete radar system enabling it to fire on the move. Although the Soviet ZSU-23-4 has a better specification, the Gepard would certainly prove a match for its Soviet counterpart.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD A. KNOWLES, 29 Central Avenue, Egham Park, Egham, Surrey, Merseyside, February 9.

## Galloping hearts

From Mrs Mary Starling

Sir, I posted Valentine cards to members of my family in our local postbox just before 8 am this morning (February 13). They were delivered here by the second post at 11.30 am. I feel that this is rather irritating efficiency on the part of the Post Office should not go unnoticed. Yours faithfully, MARY STARLING, 12 Laverlockden Terrace, Edinburgh, February 13.

## Constant factor

From Mr Arthur Robson Beishon

Sir, As second marriages have a higher rate of constancy, surely it is advisable to marry the second time first. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR ROBSON BEISHON, Edgely House, Edgely, Shropshire, February 11.















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

**Stock markets**  
FT Ind 462.6 down 11.3  
FT Gilt 66.02 down 0.95

**Sterling**  
\$2.2955 down 1.75 cents  
Index 73.0 down 0.3

**Dollar**  
Index 85.3 up 0.1

**Gold**  
\$658.5 down \$9

**Money**  
3 month sterling 171.17 1/2  
3 month Euro \$15 1/4-15 1/2  
6 months Euro \$15 1/4-15 1/2

### IN BRIEF

## Scotland first with £50 note

Scotland looks likely to beat the rest of the United Kingdom in the race to produce a new £50 note.

It is believed that the big three Scottish banks, The Clydesdale, The Royal and the Bank of Scotland, are on the point of producing the first £50 note in Britain.

The Bank of England said last night that its version of the note is not due out until at least the end of this year.

### Insurance opportunities

The insurance industry should maintain and improve its standards rather than have the Government increase legislation, Mr Reginald Eyre, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Department of Trade, told the Birmingham Insurance Institute. Although United Kingdom insurance earned £1,000m in foreign exchange, he felt the EEC could still provide considerable opportunities.

### Future of Grindlays

Speculation over the future of Grindlays Holdings continues to mount with Mass Development Co, a subsidiary of Musaid Al Saleh & Sons Group, of Kuwait, increasing its stake by 1.5 per cent to 6.57 per cent. Grindlays is jointly owned by Lloyds Bank and Citibank. The shares were unchanged yesterday at 146p.

### EEC £7.5m social aid

A £7.5m allocation to 3,800 United Kingdom shipyard workers has been approved by the European Social Fund's advisory committee to be used for the training, transfer and resettlement of shipyard workers to other parts of British Shipbuilders.

### Furness shares rise

Furness Withy, the subject of a near £97m bid of 360p a share cashed by Mr C. Y. Tung's Orient Overseas Container (Holdings) Ltd, saw the shares rise 12p to 378p yesterday. Speculation now centres around a possible bid from somebody outside shipping.

### £169.9m tax recovered

The Inland Revenue recovered £91m arising from the detection of 54,000 cases of tax evasion in the year to last October. Customs and Excise dealt with 772 cases of VAT evasion involving £3.9m, and also recovered £75m of VAT from 138,000 cases of underpayment.

### Two-wheel record

United Kingdom sales of mopeds, scooters and motor cycles last month were 15,437, a rise of 55 per cent on the same month last year, which was the best sales year since 1959.

### 300 redundancies

Blackwood, Morton and Sons, the EMK carpets group, is making 300 staff redundant at its mills at Liversedge, Yorkshire. Pre-tax profit slumped from £227,000 to losses of £479,000 while turnover fell from £11m to £10.9m in the six months to September 31.

### Flood payout of £25.5m

Insurance companies face claims of £25.5m as a result of severe flooding in Wales and the South-West just after Christmas.

## US raises its key lending rate as wholesale prices leap 1.6 pc in a month

From Frank Vogel  
United States Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Feb 15

The United States Federal Reserve Board today raised its key lending rate, signalling a tightening of credit policies and immediately sending shock waves through financial markets. The central bank's action came just after the Government announced the worst set of inflation figures seen in five years.

The Fed raised its discount rate from 12 per cent to 13 per cent. It stated "the board has been particularly concerned that recent economic developments, including the large increase in the price of imported oil, are adding to inflationary pressures and may lead to further destabilizing price movements. These developments underscore the need to take such measures as may be required to maintain firm control over growth of money and credit."

The Bureau of Labour Statistics announced that wholesale prices rose in January on a seasonally adjusted basis by 1.6 per cent compared to a gain of 0.9 per cent in December. This was the largest monthly rise seen since a 2 per cent advance in November, 1974.

The price index increase came despite an 0.8 per cent decline in food prices. In fact, when food is excluded from the data the January rise in wholesale prices was 2.4 per cent.

Wells Fargo Bank in California said its prime commercial lending rate today after the Fed boosted

the discount rate. Wells Fargo increased its rate to 15 1/2 per cent from 15 1/4 per cent.

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company raised its broker loan lending rate from 15 per cent to 15 1/2 per cent in a move that clearly is in preparation for a prime rate increase next week.

News of a tightening of credit policies by the central bank sent bond market prices down sharply, with initial losses in many cases of well over 1 per cent. Share prices on the stock exchanges were also depressed even though there has been speculation that the Fed would tighten credit.

The dollar strengthened in the foreign exchange market as traders anticipated that the rise in the discount rate will lead swiftly to general increases in deposit rates.

Mortgages are also set to rise, the lead being taken today by three Californian savings and loans banks (the equivalent of building societies), which raised their basic rate from 13 per cent to 13 1/2 per cent.

Traditionally the discount rate has been increased by no more than 1 per cent at a time. But in October and November last year and again today the Fed decided upon a one full percentage point boost.

This indicates without a doubt that the credit tightening will be substantial. Just how severe the new squeeze will be remains a matter for speculation but not for long.

Markets and banks will be closed on Monday for a national holiday and on Tuesday morning Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board,

is due to testify before the banking committee of the House of Representatives.

He is to announce the Fed's new target growth ranges for the money supply and so will provide quite a precise indication of the degree of credit tightening to be expected.

The Fed stated that industrial production rose in January by an estimated 0.3 per cent, after an increase of 0.1 per cent in December and actual declines in October and November.

It noted that output of business equipment rose strongly for the second month and production of materials and consumer goods, other than cars, moved up fairly.

The new credit moves are bound to depress the housing sector which has also been showing greater strength of late than expected, partly because of the mild winter. Indeed the Fed

noted that face some rough political criticism for raising rates and so quite probably ensuring that the recession does after all develop.

The degree to which wholesale prices rose last month was mostly unexpected. The 1.6 per cent gain for finished wholesale product prices is bad enough but other figures in the new report are worse, showing that wholesale prices at the intermediate stage rose by a fall of 2.7 per cent in food prices.

American wholesale prices have now advanced by 13 per cent over the past 12 months and the pace of increase has accelerated from month to month since last summer.

## BNOC sale plan could be abandoned because of 'impossibility' of floating shares in time

By Nicholas Hirst

Officials within the British National Oil Corporation believe it is now impossible to split its operations to float a North Sea exploration company on the Stock Exchange in time to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for 1980-81.

If this proves to be the case an important part of the argument for injecting private capital into the corporation would fall and the Government could consider dropping the plan altogether.

But so far ministers still maintain that it would be possible to pass the necessary legislation and transfer the offshore business of BNOC into a fully-fledged joint stock limited company with a flotation before the end of March next year.

Such a transfer, however, has involved a complicated process of negotiating every operating agreement between BNOC and its partners in North Sea production and exploration—a task which BNOC men

believe could take a minimum of six months and possibly as long as a year.

A much simpler solution would be to meet the commitment to bring private capital into BNOC by offering a LASMO-style loan stock with payment to holders rising with production levels. This type of scheme, however, would not help reduce the public sector borrowing requirement which is a prime consideration with No 10 Downing Street.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, has told Parliament that he intends to form a North Sea company in which the public would be able to invest.

Ministers seem to have set their minds on creating a new offshore company analogous to British Petroleum, with both public and private shareholders.

The creation of this company, however, would mean that its net cash revenues would no longer, as BNOC's do, flow directly into the consolidated fund, thus reducing the PSBR.

A sale of shares next year could reduce the PSBR by around £800m if a third of the offshore company were offered for sale on the stock exchange.

But by the following year, revenues from the North Sea would be building up, and the net cash flowing from the oil corporation to the Government would, according to BNOC officials, be running into hundreds of millions of pounds. The net gain to the PSBR, therefore, of selling shares would be minor and future inflows would be cut sharply.

The Government has to decide within the next few weeks whether it will take the gamble of raising money from a share sale in time to affect the 1980/1 PSBR, or whether to have the more limited offer of a LASMO-type stock.

There is a strong feeling within the Department of Energy that if it proves impossible to do the thing properly—and that means setting up a BP-type operation—it would be better to do nothing at all.



Mr David Howell: Still hoping public will be able to invest.

## Buyers resist Algeria's \$3 oil surcharge

By Our Energy Correspondent

There are increasing signs that the top official selling price for crude oil within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are meeting resistance from buyers.

Algeria, which is charging \$37.21 a barrel, the highest of all countries, is reported to be having difficulty in selling its oil to crude oil buyers.

Algeria is not the only country to have problems selling its crude at higher prices. It has an official price of \$31, a finding which is difficult to get buyers to pay the sur-

charge it applies. Oman, which is not an Opec member but follows Opec trends closely, has had difficulty selling cargoes on spot markets, and there are small but continued reports of distressed selling by traders.

The price of \$33.75 a barrel likely to be fixed next week by the British National Oil Corporation, which will determine the price of all North Sea crude, is unlikely to create any resistance. There is still plenty of demand for crude of North Sea quality at that level.

International companies who are short of crude are becoming more price conscious in their search for supplies. But they are still concerned that uncertainty could keep supplies tight later in the year.

Stocks, however, are now at record levels and with the difference in demand between the first and second quarter of the year amounting to some five million barrels a day, even cuts by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait look insufficient to prevent at least a temporary surplus occurring.

But the fear remains that Iran could undergo a second revolution and a prolonged cutback would cause problems again next winter.

## Tubes await result of £100m bid for Crane

By Philip Robinson

Tube Investments, the engineering conglomerate, has now completed talks in its £100m takeover bid for the private United States-based international group Crane Packing.

A spokesman for TI said last night: "The next move is up to them. This has been dragging on now since September. But we have now put our offer on the table and we wait to hear from them."

The talks started when Crane, a family-owned metal sales group with a world-wide market, approached TI and made it clear that they were open to offers.

Mr Harry Tankus, the Crane chairman, is understood to be handling the talks but, since TI have been negotiating a number of other companies, mainly American, have also shown their interest in the firm.

It is now Tube's understanding that the next development will be for Crane to make a choice as to its new owners.

Mr Tankus said last night from Crane's Chicago headquarters: "I do not wish to say anything. Any questions on this subject must go through our advisors, Goldman Sachs."

But at Goldman Sachs, Mr John Robinson, who was said to be the only man knowing anything about the talks, was not available. A spokesman for the company refused to comment.

However, sources look like odds-on favourites to be accepted from what is believed to be a list of 15 companies. Their link with Crane goes back around 25 years and they have a controlling 51 per cent interest in Crane's United Kingdom operations in Slough which is the base for its European markets.

If they succeed, it would be their biggest acquisition yet. The shares eased 8p to 306p yesterday, giving a market capitalisation of £181m.

The big question in the market is whether Tubes can afford such a deal, with borrowings of more than £86m representing 25 per cent of shareholdings funds.

There have been suggestions that they might try a Eurobond loan, but this has been denied by the company.

## Britain wins EEC support for quotas on American fibre exports

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Britain has won agreement from the European Commission to impose temporary quotas on some low cost man-made textiles from the United States.

The influx of which has caused serious damage, especially to the man-made yarn fibres sector in Britain.

But the Commission is believed to have turned down a demand for permanent quotas on one of the three categories of textiles on which Mr John Nott, the Trade Secretary, had asked for temporary quotas. This involves tufted carpets of man-made fibres whose penetration of the British market has been the least damaged—up from 17 per cent in 1978 to 8.5 per cent in the last quarter of last year.

Details of the Commission's decision will be announced on Monday and a formula may emerge which would allow temporary protection on tufted

carpets to be triggered if penetration grows beyond a specified level.

There may also be some differences in the treatment of polyester filament yarn and nylon carpet yarn, although Britain is believed to have been asking for quotas to cut back American imports from the higher levels achieved last year.

The toughest quotas are expected to be imposed on polyester yarn which has gone from 7.1 per cent penetration in 1978 to 25.5 per cent in the last quarter of last year.

This sector has seen considerable damage caused to British industry. Employment in the man-made fibres sector fell from 35,000 to 27,500 between 1976 and 1979. Recently several thousand additional redundancies have been announced by manufacturers, including ICI and Courtauld.

## America to review steel prices

By Our United States Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Feb 15

The international trade division of the United States Department of Commerce is expected to review steel import prices next week and it may advocate changes in the price system which could raise minimum import prices.

The steel industry is eagerly awaiting the price review. Should the industry consider the new minimum import prices to be too low, then it may well file official anti-dumping complaints. The complaints could possibly lead to the abandonment of the trigger price arrangement.

Leading steel companies have already announced that they are considering anti-dumping complaints. One cause for alarm directly relates to the substantial decline in the value of the Japanese yen over the last year, which has increased the competitive position of Japanese steel makers.

## Qualified approval urged for unitary tax treaty

By Michael Prest

A pressure group opposed to the clause in the double taxation treaty between the United Kingdom and United States which allows American states to levy unitary taxes on British companies is calling on Members of Parliament to record their qualified approval of the treaty when it comes up for ratification in Parliament on Monday.

The Unitary Tax Campaign, which has the support of more than 60 British companies, hopes that if MPs speak out against the clause the chances of a federal law against unitary taxation being enacted in Washington will be enhanced. As many as 10 MPs may raise objections on Monday.

The British Government has quietly delayed placing the ratification order for the treaty before Parliament in the hope that action might be taken in Washington. But the Government has now run out of time. The treaty was agreed in 1978, but in the same of states' rights the Senate deleted

Clause 9 (4) which banned unitary taxation.

This taxation, which is operated in California, Oregon, Alaska, and more recently in Maryland, taxes a foreign company by multiplying arbitrarily defined worldwide profits by an average of the ratios of worldwide sales to state sales, worldwide profits to state profits, and worldwide property to state property.

Many tax authorities around the world are concerned that the present bases of corporate taxation will be upset. Some developing countries, such as Nigeria, find the scheme attractive, however. At the moment the American Federal government, which is opposed to unitary taxation, has no powers to prevent it.

The campaign, spearheaded by some of the biggest companies in the United Kingdom, has approached legislators in Washington and California and American companies to change the law. Bills have been introduced in Congress and the Californian legislature.

## Treasury economic advisers adapt to new Whitehall orthodoxy

## Monetarists setting out to spread the word

The Government Economic Service (GES), heavily suspect for its alleged Keynesianism by Conservative ministers on first taking office last year, has begun to adapt to the new Whitehall orthodoxy of monetarism.

A two-and-a-half day seminar on "monetarism in practice" was held last month at the Civil Service College in Sunningdale, Park, Ascot, at which the principal speaker was Mr Terry Burns, the new chief economic adviser to the Treasury and head of the Government Economic Service.

All members of the GES at economic adviser and senior economic adviser levels who were invited to attend. Over 30 accepted from a wide range of departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the departments of

education, environment, health and social security as well as from the economic ministries and the National Economic Development Office. The seminar, according to one insider, emphasised "of economic ministers."

It was not a hatchet job or a sales job. No particular dogmatic view came out. It was down extremely well," he added.

Mr Burns spoke of "policy options in the United Kingdom." Mr Adam Ridley, special adviser to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, explained the "political economy of monetarism." He was balanced from the Labour side by Mr Denzil Davies, MP, former Minister of State to the Treasury, who spoke on the same theme.

Mr Charles Goodhart, from the Bank of England, expounded on "implementing monetary targets." He was complemented by Mr Richard Coughlan, of McNally, Montgomery, who gave an account of "monetarism and the City."

Professor Willem Buiter, of Bristol University, opened the seminar by answering the question "what is monetarism?" Dr Alan Budd of the London Business School, contributed on "monetarism, the international dimension," and Mr John Fleming, of Nuffield College, Oxford, spoke on "monetarism and the company sector."

The initiative for the seminar came from the Civil Service College itself. Asked about its value, one participant said: "Everyone came away a lot wiser and aware of the fact that nothing is simple."

Peter Hennessy



Mr Terry Burns: Policy options for Britain.

## THE UNITED STATES AND GENERAL TRUST CORPORATION, LIMITED

The Ninetieth Annual General Meeting of the United States and General Trust Corporation Limited will be held on March 12th in London.

The following is comment by the Chairman, Mr W. R. Merton, included in the Report of the Directors which has been circulated to Shareholders.

The year under review was notable for two events, the lifting of all dividend restrictions by the Exchange Control, both of which have had an important effect on our results.

As a result of the former, net revenue available for Ordinary Shareholders rose by nearly 46 per cent. About half of this increase represented special non-recurring dividends from Shell, BP and Unilever and as your Board considered that the benefit of these should be passed on directly to the shareholders without delay, a special interim dividend of 1.69p per share was paid in November, in addition to the ordinary interim dividend of 3p per share. With the final dividend of 5.61p per share now recommended the total for the year will have increased by just over 50 per cent from last year's total, although a smaller tax credit reduces this increase at the gross level.

The direct effect of the abolition of Exchange Control has been to eliminate the investment currency premium which at the beginning of the year accounted for just over £2 million of our assets. The strength of sterling has also had an adverse effect on the market value of our overseas holdings with the result that the Dow Jones Industrial Index in the U.S. and the New Tokyo Index which actually rose by 4.2 per cent and 2.2 per cent when adjusted for these factors showed falls equivalent to 32.9 per cent and 46.6 per cent respectively. In the U.K. the FT All Share Index rose by 4.3 per cent. Against this background the fall in the net asset value per share of 2.4 pence (which but for the investment currency premium would have risen by 9.1 pence) looks quite creditable, although the inevitable result has been a reduction in the proportion of our assets invested overseas from 34 per cent to 28 per cent.

Although income in the current year cannot be expected to show anything like last year's increase and deposit interest will probably decline, your directors expect to be able at least to maintain the current dividend of 8.61p on the ordinary shares.

## PRICE CHANGES

### Rises

Assam Trad 1/2 20p to 610p  
Decra 15p to 595p  
Foster Bros 10p to 100p  
Furness Withy 12p to 378p  
Helical Bar 3p to 30p

### Falls

Blackwood Mt 3p to 22p  
Vitor 25p to 49p  
Fennell 20p to 915c  
Grofflyci 25p to 810p

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	sells
Australia \$	2.14	28.25
Austria Sch	30.25	65.75
Belgium Fr	69.25	2.66
Canada \$	2.73	12.47
Denmark Kr	13.02	8.50
Finland Mk	8.90	9.23
France Fr	9.68	86.00
Germany Dm	4.19	91.00
Greece Dr	91.00	11.85
Hongkong \$	1.12	1.08
Ireland Pd	1.45	1.08
Italy Lira	1960.00	1570.00
Japan Yen	385.00	560.00

Lee Cooper	13p to 291p
Peterson R	14p to 32p
Steep Rock	14p to 184p
Verecoring Ref	20p to 300p
W Rand Cons	55c to 878c

Imp Cont Gas	18p to 732p
Int Thomson	18p to 474p
Ldn Sumatra	20p to 421p
Marivale Con	40p to 480p
Nitgate Explor	20p to 480p

Notes only as supplied by Reuters. Bank rates apply to sterling currency changes and other foreign currency business.



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Property bonds

## Building on the gains of the past two years

Property bond holders should be well satisfied with the return on their investments recently. About half the 40 or so funds available have beaten, or at least equalled, the past year's high level of inflation, with about a quarter recording rises even higher, of between 20 and 30 per cent.

Increases over two years are still more impressive, with most funds striding ahead of the 27 per cent rise in the retail price index. Property generally has been a much more successful investment than either equities or gilts recently.

But the question is whether you should take your profit by switching to another fund or sit tight and hope to see this growth continue?

Steep interest rates, high inflation and the prospects of an economic recession do not sound like a recipe for success in property. They bring back memories of the property slump of the early seventies.

But, as fund managers point out, that is where the similarities end. Demand for property remains strong. The market is not being held up by property companies buying with borrowed money (as in 1973) and likely to flood the market when forced to sell. Now there is a shortage of the first class property continuously sought after by insurance companies and pension funds.

Yields, in consequence, are down to a low level. "Prime" shops and offices are yielding 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, while factories

and warehouses offer a higher 6-7 per cent. Investment managers express a certain amount of surprise that these yields have remained stable, despite the rise in minimum lending rate to 17 per cent last November.

Fund managers took a cautious approach to the market after this rise in interest rates. They also increased their liquidity, in some cases to around 20 per cent, in case bondholders were wooed away from property bonds by the attractive yields available on other types of investment. Meanwhile, these liquid funds attract the high level of interest rates available for money on deposit.

On the rental side, fund managers report that growth is still strong. The 9 per cent or so increase in rents needed over a period to bring the yield on property bought now up to the level of that earned on gilts is not difficult to contemplate, according to Mr Ray Milton, who manages the Abbey Life fund.

But, he points out, success depends on individual situations. He stresses the need for not being held up by property companies buying with borrowed money (as in 1973) and likely to flood the market when forced to sell. Now there is a shortage of the first class property continuously sought after by insurance companies and pension funds.

Despite a healthy market managers do not expect the recent high rates of growth to be sustained but the upward movement will continue. "Property may not be as exciting this year as last, but rentals are still going up," says Mr Mike Maitson, manager of the Vanbrugh fund.

## LARGER PROPERTY BOND FUNDS

Company	Fund size (£m)	Minimum investment (£)	Percentage price increases based on offer values with net income reinvested, to February 1, over:
			6 mths 1 yr 2 yrs 3 yrs 5 yrs
Abbey Life	370	1,000	7.2 20.8 38.7 62.4 135.1
Cannon	28	250	7.2 15.2 28.8 47.6 69.5
Hambro Life	203	1,000	7.6 17.3 32.7 56 76.3
Hill Samuel	21	1,000	10.9 24.9 44.1 62.1 77
Irish Life	91	1,000	16.8 19.2 48.3 72.3 97.3
Merchant Investors	30	500	8.8 18.4 35.9 62.7 84.9
Pearl	32	500	10.8 17.1 29.7 50.4 48.5
Property Growth	36	1,000	4.2 15.1 28.8 62.2 95
Save & Prosper	40	1,000	5.3 15.1 28.8 62.2 95
Vanbrugh Life	60	1,000	8.8 17.9 33.1 56.4 78.1

\* Source: Planned Savings.

## Grouse

Why should British motorists with good driving records find that their car insurance costs them three times as much as soon as they cross the Channel?

"Green cards" for insurance when driving abroad are charged by all insurance companies at a flat rate, even for those who have earned no-claims bonuses by their accident-free driving.

This month, thanks to ferry companies' special offers, the minimum charge for a green card has been more than one-third the cost of transporting the car and two passengers across the Channel and back.

The insurance men say that continental insurance is more expensive because repairs and medical treatment cost more and because British motorists have more accidents when driving "on the wrong side" of the road. Continental rates are, as it happens, higher than in Britain and maximum no-claims bonuses with European insurance companies much lower (only about 20 per cent).

But one of this explains why normal British motor insurance practice should not be extended to the increasingly important green card business. Why should those who take cars to the Continent frequently and pay for successive green cards without having to claim have to subsidize the insurance costs of others who are perhaps more accident-prone?

Mr Sid Lipworth, of Hambro Life, believes that "property will see a steady progression this year", while Mr Ray Milton, Abbey Life, says "We view the future with a degree of confidence".

Property fund managers are sensitive about any suggestions that investors should switch out of their funds in the short-term. They repeat the point that property is a long-term investment and do not relish the idea of money being diverted from their funds to other investment media.

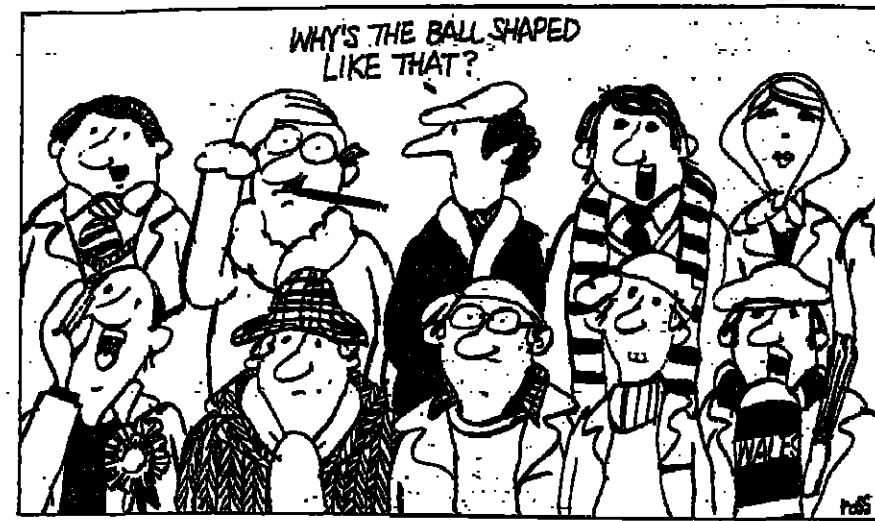
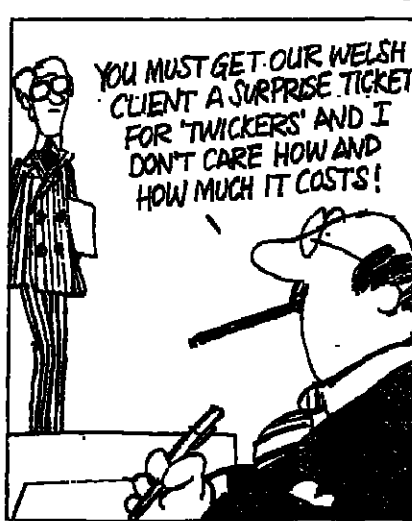
With an easing up in property growth, the yield on gilts and money on deposit looks attractive, even if it does not actually match the annual inflation at present. But there is a good capital gains potential in fixed interest investments in that interest rates are expected to fall. The question is when?

Now could be the time to switch, to say a gift or cash fund, to consolidate gains in property over the last couple of years. This is particularly so if you have only a year or so to go until the end of your annual premium policy or hold a single premium bond where you are likely to need the cash in the near future.

There also could be a case for reducing the percentage of your portfolio held in property. But, if you do switch, do not forget that it is not easy to get the timing right when you want to switch back.

Sylvia Morris

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



## When a soldier makes a will • Faulty gift

In 1956, while serving in the army, I made a will on the appropriate army form and it was witnessed by two serving soldiers. On my recent retirement the Army Records Office returned the will to me. Is it still legal or should I make another? (WBB, British Forces Post Office).

It is possible that you were prompted to make your will in 1956 because of your involvement in the Suez operation? If so, your will is undoubtedly still valid. Soldiers engaged in "actual military service" are privileged in being able to make informal wills (including oral ones), which remain valid until revoked even though the military operations justifying the privilege terminate or the soldier resumes civilian life.

If, however, you were serving simply as part of the regular peace time army on normal duties when you made the will, it must meet the normal requirements for formal validity. The presence of two witnesses and the use of a standard army form indicate that it probably does. But, after so many years, a rethink of the will's provisions might be timely; a short interview with a solicitor could be advantageous.

I recently bought my husband a splendid red tie for our anniversary. As luck would have it we were caught in the rain on a boat trip. To my horror the tie in the tie started to run and badly stained the collar of his

shirt but the tie is as good as new.

I showed both to the shop where I bought the tie. They have given me the address of the manufacturers of the tie, who happen to be in Ireland. This all seems very awkward. Can you kindly advise me? (VB, Southampton).

This situation is complicated because of the gift element. Let us assume that your husband bought the tie himself in which case the tie is clearly unsuitable for its purpose. It cannot be worn because of the danger of the dye running out and spoiling the wearer's other clothing. The shop is clearly in breach of its responsibility under the Sale of Goods Act. It must replace the tie and also recompense your husband for the loss of his shirt if the stain cannot be removed.

Your husband's claim against the manufacturers is a second-order matter, and would be based on the ground that they were negligent in manufacturing the tie. As the manufacturers are out of the jurisdiction of the Edgling courts, suing them would be too complicated.

In theory when you make a gift, you ought to hand over a letter giving all your rights under the Sale of Goods Act. In law, without such an assignment, the gift's recipient has no right to sue the retailer if the goods are defective.

However, even without an assignment, the recipient of a defective gift has a claim for negligence against the manufacturers for any loss he suffers,

## Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet

that is, the damage to his shirt. Curiously he has no legal claim against them for the replacement of the tie.

I think it would be sensible to arrange a life policy as a means of repaying a loan. In most cases, it seems as though a policy allows one to anticipate future bonuses only to the extent of 80 per cent. Is there a policy where I can assume that bonuses will be maintained at 100 per cent of their current rate, so that the policy can be issued for a lower initial sum assured, with a consequent reduction in premium? (MJ, Manchester).

The reason for using the figure of 80 per cent, which provides a "safety margin" in case bonuses are not maintained, is because that is the

maximum percentage generally accepted by building societies. It is, however, possible to arrange the type of policy you have in mind. The non-commis-sion-paying London Life Association, for instance, has a good bonus record, and issues such a policy.

My husband died on July 2 last and left me a life interest in his stocks and shares. I am one of three trustees. Can you please tell me if I shall receive the full amount on dividend warrants when "payable date" is July 3 and later? Or will the amount be apportioned, ie, four days if "payable date" is July 6, etc. My husband and I discussed this and thought the former would apply, but the point is not mentioned in his will. It makes a considerable difference to my income for 6-8 months. (BR, Cleveland).

For capital transfer tax purposes the income accrued up to date of death belongs to your husband's estate. So far as you, the beneficiary, is concerned the rule is, unless the will expressly stipulates that such "apportionment" shall take place, if the will does not make this stipulation you are entitled only to the proportion of income accruing after death.

It would seem from what you say that the will is silent on this point and in order for you to receive the full amount of the income the will would need to be changed. This can be achieved by an "instrument in writing" signed by all

the beneficiaries to the will, within two years of death.

When apportioning income received after death the rules can be quite complicated, but, broadly, it is the period for which the dividend is payable that is relevant and not the payable date. In your case, for example, if a dividend declared on July 6 is stated to be for the year ended on the preceding March 31, the whole amount of the dividend will belong to the deceased's estate.

I am wondering where I would stand in the event of damage caused by an aircraft. Would I have to prove negligence and are those who fly aircraft obliged to have third party insurance? (P. R., York).

In this country there is a special rule concerning liability for damage caused to things or people on the ground, subject to a defence of contributory negligence. Broadly, therefore, it is not necessary to prove negligence on the part of the pilot.

Although third party insurance is not required by law, major airlines have it as a matter of course and the great majority of owners of private aircraft are insured for liability up to £100,000 or more. The Civil Aviation Authority some time ago recommended that the minimum should be £500,000.

The Department of Trade has said that despite the absence of compulsory insurance, no third party in the United Kingdom has gone uncompensated for lack of insurance cover.

## House prices

## Buyers undeterred by mortgage rate

Higher mortgage interest rates are not acting as a major deterrent to either would-be house buyers, or indeed, house prices. The Times/Halifax House Price Index, based on about 10,000 housing transactions, rose by a seasonally adjusted 2.1 per cent in January and all the evidence available to the society's branch managers is that prospective purchasers have recovered their nerve.

Although there is usually a little upsurge in house prices in January, the rise of 2.1 per cent in the index is slightly larger than might have been expected. Special factors relating to the acute mortgage shortage at the end of last year, have to be taken into account.

The time-lag between agreeing a price and the date on which the Halifax makes its mortgage offer—the basis of the house price index—will vary. Normally, the interval is two to three weeks: in periods when funds are short and demand is high the interval lengthens to several weeks.

This happened at the end of last year so the index figure is based on what are, in effect, slightly more historic price levels. The month in which the catching-up process takes place, with the delay between agreeing a price and receiving the mortgage offer narrows back to two to three weeks) take place, tends

to produce figures which modestly overstate the true rate of increase.

Another factor which influenced the index in January is the mortgage mix. When funds are short, Halifax managers tend to favour members who wish to borrow smaller sums for the purchase of less expensive properties.

When the rationing problem eases managers can do a little more to meet the requirements of borrowers who want larger loans for more expensive properties — as happened in January. Any month in which even a slight up-market improvement takes place will produce inflated house price figures.

Although the individual effects are slight, taken together these two factors could have added as much as a one point change to the index.

In the regions figures for the latest three months confirm a distinct slowing down in Greater London, the South-west, the East Midlands and, to a lesser extent, the South-east. However, earlier indications that the 15 per cent mortgage rate had turned off demand did not continue beyond mid-January. There is some revival in demand, although it is not as strong as it was last year.

Margaret Stone

## The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly Index of average prices of second-hand houses (Seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
January	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
February	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
March	121.1	17,866	21.1	10.7	2.4
1978 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,783	24.6	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	25.6	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	136.2	20,094	30.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	32.1	15.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	36.2	18.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	38.0	14.1	6.6
September	145.5	21,480	38.1	11.5	5.6
October	149.5	22,065	42.7	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,339	45.3	11.2	4.3
December	151.0	22,291	44.8	9.6	3.8
1980 January	154.2	22,754	25.5	8.2	3.1

## Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	January £	December £	% change over 3 months ended October
North	17,334	17,040	2.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	16,067	15,619	2.6
North-west	18,425	18,506	0.4
East Midlands	17,578	17,542	0.2
West Midlands	20,235	19,889	5.8
East Angles	21,606	21,136	6.0
Wales	18,619	17,857	7.4
South-east	23,849	23,999	1.4
South-west	29,864	29,680	2.8
Greater London	30,124	30,502	-0.3
Northern Ireland	20,978	21,763	-3.6
Scotland	20,316	20,306	-0.2

## Investor's week

## Market has further to fall

Experts are not wrong all the time. But a week is long enough. Black Friday, with an 11.3 dive, did not quite wipe out the week's gain in the FT index. On the week it was still 1.2 up, at 462.5, which to the wise, is still too high.

The experts were wrong about other things, too. Little Rascal got goliath GEC between the eyes in the duel for Decca. While GEC slept on its cash mountain, Rascal got up and nibbled key voting shareholders.

Consolidated Gold Fields was not stalked, it seems, by sinister Africanism. The sly secret spending of more than £100m on 25 per cent of Consolidated came from liberal, progressive and rich Mr Harry Oppenheimer who has De Beers in his left hand and Anglo American in his right.

If there is one thing people loathe it is being caught out. The Department of Trade has appointed inspectors to look into the affair, and the Stock Exchange is investigating, too. The best people also told us that Furness Withy was too dear. Without a bid, maybe, and maybe not. In a week the shares have come up from 242p to 378p as buyers decided to ask obliging bidder Mr C. Y. Tung, the Hongkong shipper, for more than the £97m or 360p a share he has offered.

But, as I was almost saying at the start, the best people

are now and again right. They have been saying that some investors have gone, temporarily at least, barmy. There may or may not be a third round war. Say anything to do with gold gleams feverishly, and that means oil and any other "resource" you can think of.

Then again, we may not go to war, and gold, oil and any other "resource" you can think of suddenly looks wan. So Wall Street has faded—and London too.

Some old stories come true, others do not. People and institutions who were in S. Hoffmann, Furness, Compair and Godfrey Davis (where a deal

with a Renault subsidiary is pending) will no doubt plough back profits into other shares. It has to be seen whether holders of Berris, De Vere Hotels, Guthrie Corporation, Arana and Dunlop are equally fortunate.

One buys the market when the economy reaches bottom. At that point, interest rates start to fall and companies, suitably streamlined like in money rather than pay it out. The week's news about steel, money supply, the trade figures and prices show that this point has not yet been reached.

Peter Wainwright

## MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
625p	235p	Decca	15p to 585p	Rascal, GEC bids
1203p	72p	Foster Bros	12p to 100p	Takeover talk
400p	218p	Furness Withy	114p to 378p	C. Y. Tung offer
245p	215p	Men Lingers	5p to 225p	Furness stake
280p	136p	MK Electric	25p to 202p	Bad hopes
31p	20p	Blackwood Morton	4p to 22p	Poor interim
278p	172p	Brit Home Stores	5p to 273p	Pit taking
190p	110p	Fremans Ldn	26p to 122p	Pit warning
210p	98p	Vickers	6p to 76p	Div fears
114p	55p	Appleyard	7p to 76p	BL distributor

## Double or quits

## Selling Dunlop

This week I am writing a negative piece, so it will be succinct. The advice: sell Dunlop. Last night they closed at 65p, down 5p.

This is a useful increase on the price ruling on November 17, when Dunlop had the honour (I hope) of starting this column. They were then 44p and last Wednesday they made 70p. But after the blossoming came the wilting.

Recent buying has been purely frothy and the only reasonably true thing about froth is that it gets blown away. Once the share price reaction has run its course, I will look at Dunlop again.

Market operators have been linking the group with Sime Darby's assumed intention of making a second bid for Guthrie Corporation now that the time limit after its first unsuccessful bid is nearly up (it will be in April).

The theory was that Guthrie would dilute the Sime stake by bidding for Dunlop, a suggestion that Dunlop greets with incredulity. Guthrie dismisses, it, too.

Shares are for buying and selling and the gamblers have given you an opportunity too good to miss.

PW

## Fixed interest investment

## Case for a switch of emphasis

With bank overdrafts costing upwards of 20 per cent and the mortgage rate up to 15 per cent you might think that the Government of the Bank of England would hardly dare set foot outside his Threadneedle Street citadel these days.

But there he was last Thursday, down in the West Country, laying it on the line to the business folk of Bristol that they could not have it both ways. If they wanted to see inflation conquered, then they would have to swallow the "bitter medicine" of high interest rates until the present excessive demand for credit had been brought under control.

Now the real point of bringing up Mr Richardson's speech is this: he put it to the businessmen of Bristol that they should remember that there are two parties to every credit transaction. In other words, if interest rates looked high, savers as borrowers, they certainly did not look high to the savers who provided the money and seemed only to see the purchasing power of their money draining steadily away from them.

Indeed, with price inflation now running at an annual rate of 18.4 per cent and likely to touch 20 per cent before the spring is out, savers can certainly argue that they do not seem to be getting a "fair" return even at present rates of interest.

Rightly or wrongly, the Government sees any extension of "inflation" as the thin end of a dangerous wedge. Savers are, I suspect, going to have to make do, for the most part anyway, with the savings instruments already available to them.

That is not, however, quite as gloomy as it may sound. For provided the Government keeps its nerve—and there is going to be plenty more to test it over the coming months—it should be able to create the conditions in which the "real" rate of return at present being forgone by the saver is delivered, with interest so to speak, over the medium term.

The way in which the saver is going to reap that return is by choosing the appropriate moment to switch the emphasis of his portfolio away from variable rate savings instruments—bank deposits, building society share accounts and so on—into fixed rate instruments such as gilt-edged securities and corporate loan stocks. He can do this either through a managed fund that specializes in fixed interest securities or by direct investment on his own account.

Now I suggested at the tail end of last year that interest rates had probably reached a peak and should start to fall at some stage during 1980. I also suggested that if the gilt-edged market moved ahead too far too quickly—and that is the way markets tend to behave—there might well be a reaction after the Budget.

Well, the market did move ahead too rapidly in January.

The reaction has been speedy and sharp, with many stocks completely retracing their steps under one like War Loan.

At the turn of the year the market was concerned that the November rise in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate would prove no more than a two to three-month wonder. Since then, however, it has become clear that there is no room for the government to cut MLR ahead of the Budget, and possibly not even then.

Certainly, short-term interest rates are going to remain firm for some weeks yet and, as I would still bet against any further rise in MLR, I would be happy to be picking up short-term, perhaps medium-dated stocks at about present levels.

Admittedly, that will probably involve some small loss of income where money is switched out of a building society or bank account—at least until the rates offered by banks and building societies start to fall. But all these stocks now stand below their par value, so, if held to redemption, guarantee some degree of capital appreciation, too.

There is an argument for concentrating on the long end of the market, where inflationary expectations are as important a consideration as short-term interest rates. It is that this government is not going to allow any significant fall in short-term interest rates until it is confident that inflationary expectations have indeed improved. But this, it seems to me, is a fairly well-known fact, and the argument for long-term yields are already almost a point lower than short-term ones.

There is, however, a rather more interesting argument for not going too short at present, than there is to four years to maturity. The government has been heavily criticized for issuing vast quantities of high coupon long-dated debt in recent years, thereby placing an enormous debt interest burden on the future of the country, particularly should inflation ever disappear.

So, with the prospect of steeply increasing oil revenues in the mid-eighties to help alleviate its financial problems, it may be tempted to try to fund a larger proportion of its debt in new short-term instruments, such as a one-year Treasury Bill. That could tend to fetter the very short end of the market relative to longer maturities, with the latter possibly rising sharply on the grounds of scarcity value.

Overall, then, I would be prepared to continue switching out of variable interest and into fixed interest investments, though without being prepared to chase prices very far ahead of the Budget and/or indications that there is a turn for the better on the money supply.

John Whimmore

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## Pre-Budget taxation

## Bed and breakfast bargains

By deftly manoeuvring your investments before the end of the tax year, on April 5, you could make a substantial difference to your capital gains tax liability for both 1979-80 and perhaps also for the longer term.

A point to remember about capital gains tax is that if you had made losses which were carried forward, these could be carried forward to future years and set against taxable gains. Do not forget that also there are various forms of disposal; the most common form is by sale, although lifetime gifts can also set off capital gains tax charge. There is a very important and valuable "small gains" exemption for individuals.

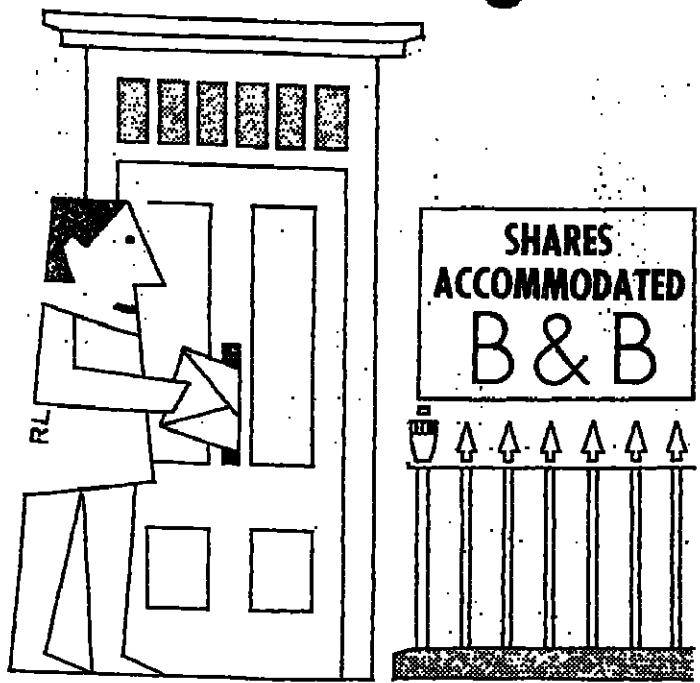
It is certainly worth developing an annual strategy to keep total net gains below either the £5,000 level to attract the 15 per cent rate only, or below £1,000 where no tax is payable.

But how do you realize losses in order to offset taxable gains without effectively changing your investments? The answer lies in a curiously named device — the "bed and breakfast" operation.

Suppose you hold a share which you bought for £5,000 but which now has declined in value to £4,000; you want to retain the share because you think it will recover in the long term, but you have realized other gains during the year totalling £5,000 and you want to avoid paying capital gains tax at 50 per cent. The procedure is to sell the holding for £4,000 on, say, Wednesday and buy back the same stock on Thursday morning at virtually the same price.

In effect, the market provides accommodation for your shares overnight — hence the term "bed and breakfast". As a result, you bring your total realized gains during the year down to the tax free £5,000 level and save £500 capital gains tax.

It may be worth bed and breakfasting shares if you have



no gains in the year in order to create a gain within the exempt limit and so raise threshold costs for the future. Remember, also that unit trusts and investment trusts carry with them a 10 per cent capital gains tax credit, but this only has any value if you actually pay any capital gains tax on the disposal. If you are expecting to pay no capital gains tax during the year, because your total net disposals will be less than £1,000, then it is generally preferable to bed and breakfast shares before your unit trusts or investment trusts.

There has been a lot of speculation about reforms the Chancellor will be announcing for capital gains tax in the Budget. He may increase the levels of exempt gains, or it is just possible that he may introduce some kind of tapering or indexing system in which acquisition costs of assets are effectively reduced so that the taxable gains and allowable losses may be reduced.

Just in case the Chancellor introduces this kind of system with effect from the Budget, you should consider bed and breakfasting before March 26 so that any losses—particularly on acquisitions made in the more distant past—are not devalued.

If the Chancellor increases only the small exemptions levels and other reliefs—such as the relief on the disposal of business assets on retirement—then there could be some valuable opportunities for bed and breakfasting in the last hectic 10 days between the Budget and April 6.

Unit trusts or investment trusts can be a fruitful area for bed and breakfast operations. Remember, also that unit trusts and investment trusts carry with them a 10 per cent capital gains tax credit, but this only has any value if you actually pay any capital gains tax on the disposal. If you are expecting to pay no capital gains tax during the year, because your total net disposals will be less than £1,000, then it is generally preferable to bed and breakfast shares before your unit trusts or investment trusts.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Gloomy news hits equities

The worsening steel strike and the latest batch of gloomy economic indicators proved too much for the market yesterday as buyers took their profits and ran for cover.

The scene had been set overnight on Wall Street, so that when trading resumed the profit-takers moved in and prices were marked lower. Only a small bout of actual selling was reported. Gilt, too, had an unhappy time of it as investors took their profits, anxious not to get caught with too much stock over the weekend.

The tone by mid-morning was somewhat better as a few investors re-entered the market hoping to pick up bargains at the lower levels. But the release of the retail price index soon put paid to this with the worst set of figures for quite some time, showing that inflation was still on the up and up. Equities then continued to

amid fears of the recent expansion in money supply which was well above the Government's target. News after hours that the Federal Reserve had raised their rates at the commencement of dealings on Wall St had done little to help confidence. Falls of about £1 a share in long, while at the shorter end of the market, losses of about £1 were reported.

The reason for the heavy fall in the index could be seen among the leading industrials, where some heavy falls were recorded. Examples included Unilever 12p lower at 451p, ICI at 386p and Glaxo at 246p, both 10p off, while Fisons with figures due soon, eased 3p to 289p.

Others to lose ground were Grand Met, 8p to 131p and BAT at 236p and Reed International at 196p, both losing 5p. Shares of Furness Withy again claimed most attention amid fears that the approach from C.Y. Tung would be referred to the Monopolies Commission and hopes of a counter-bid from Inchcape, down 7p at 368p. Nevertheless, FW still managed to rise 12p to 378p but Fashion & General, which holds a stake in FW, dipped 5p to 200p.

Shares of Rascal bore a more stabilised look, closing unchanged at 207p, while GEC fell 1p to 375p. The latest offer from Rascal helped Decca ord to a 15p rise at 595p and the "A" rose 11p to 492p. Unfortunately, fading bid hopes knocked 25p from Faxonid at 497p, while Plessey slipped 5p to 137p and Berec, another takeover prospect, shed 2p to 121p.

Polly Peck leapt 4p to 16p, which is 7p above the bid price offered by Restro Investments. Speculative interest also lifted Lee Cooper 13p to 284p and Foster Bros 10p to 100p, while buying in a thin market helped Shawana Ware 11p to 166p.

Among companies reporting, BMK dipped 5p after its pre-tax

loss and the closure of one of its mills, while the profits setback the price 6p to 102p. However, Helical Bar rose 3p to 30p after its interim report while Wagon Finance remained firm at 36p.

The recent profits warning from Freemans, 10p lower at 122p, continued to overshadow stores where Empire fell 4p to 164p, Grattans 2p to 92p and GUS "A" 11p to 385p.

Rubbers again encountered profit-taking with falls throughout the list. Guthrie retreated

Depressed by the copper price increase, which was not a serious problem, then boosted by takeover talk, which did not result in a single approach, shares in MK Electric at 202p, up 4p yesterday, have been excitable of late. The truth is that profits for the year to end March will be about £6.7m against £8.3m last time and meanwhile the company is still looking for acquisitions in the United Kingdom and America, preferably for shares.

25p to 810p, along with Castlefield 12p to 520p, Highlands 3p to 111p and London & Sumatra 2p to 42p.

Gold shares put up a stronger performance, in spite of the bullion price which dipped 5p to 688.5. Anglo American Gold was 5p stronger at 589p, but West Driffield at 583p and St Helena at 538p were both easier. Among the London financials Cons Gold came in for more buying, as the price expanded 4p to 516p, but R.T.Z. fell 8p to 460p and De Beers slipped 5p to 512p.

Equity turnover on February 14 was 1,980,066m (22,688 bar-gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: RTZ, Lasso, Furness Withy, Premier Cons, ICI, GUS "A", Rascal, Barclays, Decca "A" and Plessey.

## Profit slip delays Wedgwood expansion

By Alison Mitchell  
High interest rates and a strong pound have continued to take their toll of the profits of fine china group Wedgwood. Several factories are working on short time already and the chairman Sir Arthur Bryan reports that expansion plans have had to be put into cold storage in the meantime.

Although profits are down, there has been some slight improvement on previous expectations, and the full-year dividend will be maintained. In the nine months to December 29 Wedgwood turned in pre-tax profits of £4.6m, against £6.3m for the previous 39 week period, on sales up 11 per cent at £69.8m.

These results include a first-time contribution from the Californian acquisition, Francis Ceramics which added £4m to turnover. Stripping this out, volume was down slightly during the period. Interest charges cost Wedgwood £1.6m against a previous

£600,000, but the chairman reports that some £10m of short-term debt has now been converted to medium-term loans with variable interest rates.

Wedgwood is currently working at around 70 per cent capacity overall. Sir Arthur blames the company's profits fall on the Government's dear-money policy which has resulted in an over-valued pound. The strength of sterling against the United States and Canadian dollars is currently hitting exports, which accounts for 60 per cent of Wedgwood's overall sales. The correct exchange rate according to the group would be \$1.65 to the pound.

Forecasting full-year figures, the chairman anticipates a similar fourth quarter to last time, which would bring the final profit figures to £6.8m. Yesterday the shares rose 4p to 67p.

## Alcan cuts dividend as interest charges top £11m

By Michael Prest  
With profits down last year by £4.8m to £10.9m, Alcan Aluminium, the United Kingdom subsidiary of the Canadian company, has cut its dividend by 3.3p to 6.6p.

A sharp rise in interest charges from £7.98m to £11.6m accounted for most of the profits fall. The engineering dispute cost another £1.2m in estimated lost profits, while the transport strike also caused an unquantified further loss.

In common with other British manufacturing companies Alcan suffered from the strength of sterling, which both encouraged imports from

other aluminium producers, chiefly on the Continent, and reduced export earnings. The combined effects of these factors can be seen in the operating profit which at £17.7m was £600,000 more than in 1978. Under current cost accounting convention, however, the pretax loss would have been £11.5m.

About 19.3 per cent of Alcan's equity is held in the United Kingdom, the rest being in the hands of Alcan Canada. Mr Dennis Pinn, Alcan's chairman, said that the dividend will be restored as soon as profits allow, the cut being made necessary by high capital spending.

## Polly Peck soars on bid

By Philip Robinson  
Strong buying has doubled the share price of clothes maker and retailer Polly Peck (Holdings) since Jersey-based investment group Restro Investments made a 9p-a-share bid for the group on Wednesday. The price last night had jumped to 16p, after languishing at 7p before the bid. The market reckons that "every man woman and dog" has been buying since the bid.

Restro is indirectly owned through an Isle of Man invest-

ment company, Wearwell Isle of Man Holdings, by Mr Asil Nadir, chairman of the wholesaling clothes group Wearwell. Mr Nadir has said that he intends to maintain the share quotation of Polly Peck and to expand the business, which has not paid a dividend since 1975 and last year lost £22,000.

Few details are known of what Restro plans for the company. Mr Nadir will become a director when the bid, already supported by Polly Peck directors with 57 per cent of the shares, goes through.

UNIT TRUSTS AND CGT			
Unit trust disposals 1979-80	40,000		2
Acquisition costs	20,000		
Gain realized 1979/80	20,000		
Capital gains tax @ 30%		6,000	
Less tax credit of 10%		2,000	
Capital gains tax		£4,000	

WHEN CAPITAL GAINS TAX BITES			
Gains	Rate	Cumulative gain	Cumulative tax
First £1,000	Nil	£1,000	£ Nil
Next £4,000	15	5,000	600
Next £4,500	50	9,500	2,850
Thereafter	30		

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

## Round-up

## Another change for Cosmopolitan

Unit holders of Cosmopolitan Growth unit trust have seen yet another change in fund managers—the fourth since the trust started in 1969. Now, along with sister Income and Overseas funds, it will be managed by Chourlarton Fund Managers, a new entry into the unit trust management field.

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chourlarton, the Manchester-based financial and banking services company. The new managers, who have applied to change the name of the funds to identify them more closely with their

name, hope to improve the performance. This does not seem to be too difficult a task—both the Cosmopolitan Growth and Income trusts came in the bottom 20 of the performance tables last year.

On Monday Standard Life is launching a regular premium policy after its entry into the unit-linker field last November with a single-premium bond. Premiums (minimum £300 a year or £30 per month) can be linked to one or more of the office's six internal funds. There is no minimum holding in any one fund.

The policy offers the now usual options after 10 years—you can either cash in the plan for a tax-free lump sum, take a tax free income or carry on paying premiums for another 10 years.

Abbey Life is filling the gap in its range of internal bond funds by launching a fixed interest fund. But as yet this fund is available only to single-premium bond holders where the minimum investment is £1,000. There is a 5 per cent initial charge on the fund plus an annual levy of 0.75 per cent.

## Unit trust performance

INCOME	A	B	Target/Income	99.3	152.1	A-Hamro/Reclvy Sec	115.9	200.5
Discretionary	118.7	227.0	Great Winchester	98.7	137.0	Antony Gibbs Small Cos	115.9	203.5
CT Income	115.0	196.2	Middle Mnt High Inc	98.6	137.0	M & G/Second	115.8	189.3
Provincial Life/Hg In	114.7	209.3	Ansbacher Inc Monthly	98.6	148.1	Target/Equity	115.7	153.0
Britannia Inc & Grwth	113.9	163.3	Hill Samuel/High Yld	98.5	148.3	Crescent Reserves	115.6	150.0
Nat Comm/Income	113.2	229.5	Ridgfield Income	97.6	158.0	Britannia Domestic	115.6	166.0
M & G/Cont Income	113.0	161.4	Chieftrain High Inc	97.6	158.0	Family Fund	115.2	158.0
Mutual/Income	113.0	161.4	M & G/Mid & Gen	97.5	184.7	Allied/Grwth & Inc	115.1	159.3
Antony Gibbs Ex Inc	112.6	172.1	Target Extra Inc	97.4	138.6	Rowan Group	114.4	139.4
Nat West/Income	111.3	144.1	S & P/Income	97.2	138.6	T & G/Cumberland	114.3	154.9
Bridge Income	111.3	176.5	G & T Four Years Fund	97.1	134.9	Mutual/Blue Chip	114.3	154.9
Kleinwort Bsns H Yld	111.2	191.2	British Life Dividend	97.0	134.9	A & Units	114.3	154.9
M & G/High Income	111.2	166.5	Schlesinger Extra Inc	95.0	142.6	Barclays Unitcore 500	113.8	131.2
Barclays/Income	109.1	168.7	Key Income	94.5	124.6	T & G/Buckingham	113.3	168.7
Allied/High Income	109.1	168.7	Arbuthnot High Inc	92.4	139.6	T & G/Wickmore	112.9	153.1
A-Hamro Equity Inc	109.1	133.6	Ne/Neider Income	92.4	139.6	Vanguard Trustee	112.7	163.6
Schlesinger Income	108.0	131.5	Craigmont High Inc	91.5	—	Barclays/Unit Trustee	112.7	163.6
Schlesinger Yield	107.9	177.4	London Wall/High Inc	90.4	—	Mutual/Security Plus	112.7	150.0
T & G/Vanguard H Yld	107.9	166.0	London Wall/High Inc	90.3	144.3	T & G/Glen Fund	112.4	152.7
Framlington Income	107.2	161.6	Cabot Smaller Cos Divs	89.0	144.3	Allied/British Indust	112.3	155.2
Midland Drayton Inc	107.2	179.9	London Wall/Extra Inc	81.1	138.2	Hill Samuel/British	112.3	146.9
Antony Gibbs Income	107.3	151.9				Prudential/Prutrust	112.0	145.5
S & P/Select Income	107.0	161.6	GENERAL	133.9	186.3	Cabot Recovery	111.9	135.9
Target-Scot-Thistle	106.9	141.6	Rowan Meritt	133.9	186.3	Hill Samuel/Security	111.9	147.2
Barclays/Unicn Ex In	106.2	172.1	Brclays/Unicn Perf Ass	130.4	204.7	Alben	111.6	150.7
L & C Income	106.0	132.3	A-Hamro/Smaller Cos	129.5	267.8	Peat Trust	111.5	144.6
Schroder Wagn Inc	105.9	179.6	M & G/Smaller Cos	128.7	237.5	Tyndall Turner Earnings	111.3	153.0
Carshore Wagn Inc	105.9	179.6	MLA Trust	124.8	199.4	Canlife General	111.0	151.4
Trustee Svcs Bk Inc	105.9	179.6	Cofed Growth Unit	124.8	199.4	M & G/Trustee	110.9	162.7
Mutual/High Yield	105.9	152.4	Brclays/Unicn Perf Ass	124.7	160.1	T & G/Glen Fund	110.6	163.9
Ryan High Yield	105.5	162.8	Oceanic/Spec	124.5	205.2	Britannia Status Ch	110.4	213.0
James Finlay High Inc	105.4	143.8	Frans House	122.2	172.0	Oceanic/Index	110.1	146.8
Lloyds Income	105.3	130.2	Archway Fund	121.3	263.7	Anderson	110.0	210.9
S & P/Scottyields	105.3	140.4	Key Small Cos Fund	121.1	157.5	Brclays/Unicn Perf Ass	109.7	153.7
Chieftrain Inc & Grwth	104.4	148.6	Brclays/General	120.9	208.2	Key Equity and Gen	109.3	145.5
Tyndall/Income	104.0	139.9	Merrymay General	120.5	191.9	Scottish Equitable Unit	109.2	147.3
S & P/High	103.9	184.9	S & P/Scottyields	120.4	142.9	Schlesinger Mark Ltd	109.1	147.0
Henderson/High Inc	103.8	174.8	Ne/Neider	120.0	177.4	Archbuthnot Smaller Cos	108.7	150.0
Alben Income	103.7	—	Quilter Mgmt/Quad	119.6	167.9	Knweth Small Cos	108.4	183.7
Cabot Extra Income	103.7	—	M & G/General	118.9	166.9	Oceanic Performance	108.3	178.2
Quilter Mgt, Qdnt Inc	103.4	154.5	Grievson/Barrington	118.8	127.3	Emson & Dudley	107.7	143.3
Lloyds Extra Income	103.0	137.4	Guardhill	117.3	189.2	Nat West/Portfolio In	107.7	143.3
Canlife Income	102.9	124.9	Antony Gibbs Int Earn	117.0	163.7	Equities Opportunity	107.4	184.0
Royal Trust Income	102.8	130.2	Legal & Geo-Tyndall	117.0	174.3	Reliance Opportunity	107.4	156.6
Hill Samuel/Income	102.8	130.2	T & G/Barclays	117.0	157.0	Barclaytrust Invest	107.3	162.4
Crescent High Yield	102.8	143.4	Lloyds Life Equity	117.0	157.0	ALLIED/E & I Develop	107.3	162.4
Britannia Nat High Inc	102.4	158.0	S & P/UK Equity	116.9	160.2	College Hill	107.2	137.7
Misflower Income	102.4	143.3	T & G/Coleman	116.8	172.8	Mayflower General	107.1	132.6
New Court Income	102.3	127.9	British Life Balanced	116.8	245.8	Novelty Unit Trst	106.6	183.4
Abbey Income	102.1	135.7	A-Hamro 2nd Smr Cos	116.8	196.9	Trades Union Units	106.2	150.1
Carlton High Yield	101.7	144.9	Leo Capital	116.5	163.7	Abbey/General	105.9	244.1
Seabrook Income	101.7	—	Allied/First	116.5	172.1	Oceanic/Recovery	105.9	166.7
Mid Drayton High Yld	101.3	180.1	Kinweth Bsns Unit Fnd	116.4	195.3	Minster	100.9	129.0
A-Hamro High Yield	101.1	135.0	Pelican Units	116.3	153.6	Reliance/Selforde	90.9	129.9
Nat West/Ext Income	100.8	162.5	Target Special Sits	116.3	153.6			
S & P/High Return	100.6	139.7	Brclays/Unicn Gen	116.0	177.7			
Oceanic/High Income	100.1	144.6						
Arbuthnot Extra Inc	100.1	165.6						
Capel Income	100.0	171.3						
Brclays Extra Inc	99.4	136.3						
Arbuthnot High Yld	99.4	139.3						

The tables show the value on February 1, 1980 of £100 invested 12 months ago (A) and three years ago (B), income reinvested and based on offer-to-offer price.

Figures supplied by Planned Savings, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

The tables show the value on February 1, 1980 of £100 invested 12 months ago (A) and three years ago (B), income reinvested and based on offer-to-offer price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

## Briefly

**CITY OF DUBLIN BANK**  
Mr Thomas Kenny, chairman, told annual meeting in Dublin that profits for first quarter exceeded targets, but these were set, in profit terms, below those for same period last year.

**DRAMA HOLDINGS**  
Pre-tax profit of Drama Ltd for 1979, £16,000 (£13,000). No further progress on tax problems but board has some hope that a solution is in sight.

**CRODA**



## Broken Hill to hold its 65 pc growth rate

## International

**Norsk Hydro**

## Wall Street

**February 14: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 10.07 points down at 893.77.**





# BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

## Stock Exchange Prices Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 25 Settlement Day, March 3  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1979-80 Then Low Stock	Price Chgs Yield %	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Chgs Yield %	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Chgs Yield %	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Chgs Yield %	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Chgs Yield %
BRITISH FUNDS									
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL									
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN									
LOCAL AUTHORITIES									
FOREIGN STOCKS									
DOLLAR STOCKS									
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS									
BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES									
SHIPPING									
MINES									
FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
INSURANCE									
INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
OIL									
PROPERTY									
RUBBER									
TEA									
MISCELLANEOUS									



shop also has pure Irish linen for suiting at £7.65 a yard in wine, brown, navy, white and ecru, and some superb chunky knit, luxuriously soft, alpaca sweaters in lovely browns that I would call chocolate, nutmeg and fudge. I expect their real names are something quite different, but I was on a diet at the time.



from Pierrot, 174 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London, SW6

One use for thyme which

What is not revealed is how the potion should be used, which I feel is a very grave omission. If you drank a pint of salad oil you would be occupied at the bottom of the garden otherwise than by looking for fairies.

Compact modular storage units are available in the natural and brown oaks and are a clever answer to the modern problem of the disappearing sideboard. Each unit is about

instance, costs £230.  
Stockists of Quarto furniture include Heals and Fenwicks of London; Penwicks, Newcastle; Hopewells, Nottingham; Kendal, Milne, Manchester; Maskreys, Cardiff, and you can obtain a brochure from Quarto, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, Avon BA2 1ET.

Those who are unable to get to London to see the exhibition (on until July 20) may be interested to know that copies of antiquities from the Viking and other periods of ancient history are available in some 50 museums throughout the country, and that the only thing about them is that they are not just imitations. They are exact reproductions, moulded by a special technique from the originals and with every bump and scratch exactly as it was made centuries ago. They are the work of one man, Peter Shorser, a fellow of the International Institute for Research in Art, who has followed the same technique for over 30 years, and is now working as a conservator of antiquities with

He then began to make selected pieces in silver, gold and bronze and this, the "commercial" side of his work, which he keeps separate from his academic work, extended his travels to Denmark, America and the Dominican Republic for whom he is preparing reproductions of some of the finds in the treasure ship Concepcion, recovered in 1978 by the Sequest expedition.

£88.55, from the Yorkshire museum, York.

There are many other fascinating pieces, including the betrothal ring given by Mary Queen of Scots to Lord Darnley, the original of which is in the Victoria and Albert museum. You can see many of the pieces mentioned in the Arts Council shop, or can obtain them direct from Peter Shore, 40 Devonshire Road, Mord, Essex LG2 7EW.

A black and white photograph of a still life arrangement. In the center is a teacup with a handle, resting on a matching saucer. To the left is a shallow, wide sugar bowl. To the right is a creamer or pitcher. All three items have a speckled or mottled pattern. The background is dark and textured.

Far left: Bronze copy of the Horse of Ribblesdale, 1920 at the Arts Council shop, 8 Longacre, London, WC2; double-headed horse design found in excavations of medieval York, £7.25 (incl p & p) from York Archaeological Trust; Copperplate, York; perforated silver disc pendant, part of a ninth century necklaces found at Saffron Walden, £34.50 from Saffron Walden Museum. All by Peter Shorer. Left: Thor's hammer pendant found at Romersdal, Bernholm, art reproduced in silver, £19,95 each from the British Museum. Below: silk scarves designed by Allan for the Vikings exhibition, £15.85 at the British Museum. Bottom: Peter Shorer's copy in gold of an Anglo-Viking ring found in Fishergate, York, £88.55 from the Yorkshire Museum, York.

Among Peter Shorer's Viking pieces that may interest you are the Horse of Ribe, which was recreated from three pieces of a pottery mould found in a ninth-century bronzesmith's workshop at Ribe. Part of the head from the ears to the nostrils was never found, so this is the only section which had to be created according to the style of the period. In bronze, it costs £9.20 from the Arts Council shop in 8, Long-acre, London WC2E 9LG.

There is also a unique double-ended spoon with a twisted stem, which was found in early medieval levels at Coppergate in 1978. The reproduction is available at York Archaeological Trust, Coppergate, York, for £7.25. Or there is a simple silver disc with four perforations and a scratched cross, part of a medallion from the cemetery within the battle ditches at Gifford Walden, and available in the museum there for £4.50.

The most expensive item is an Anglo-Viking ring, circa AD 900, showing two animals clasping a human head in their claws. The original was found in Fishergate, York, and the reproduction, also in gold, costs £88.55. It is in the Yorkshire museum, York.

There are many other fascinating pieces, including the betrothal ring given by Mary Queen of Scots to Lord Darnley, the original of which is in the Victoria and Albert museum. You can see many of the pieces mentioned in the Arts Council shop, or obtain them direct from Peter Shor, 40 Devonshire Road, Middlesbrough, Essex, LG2 7EW.

## هكذا من الأصل



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